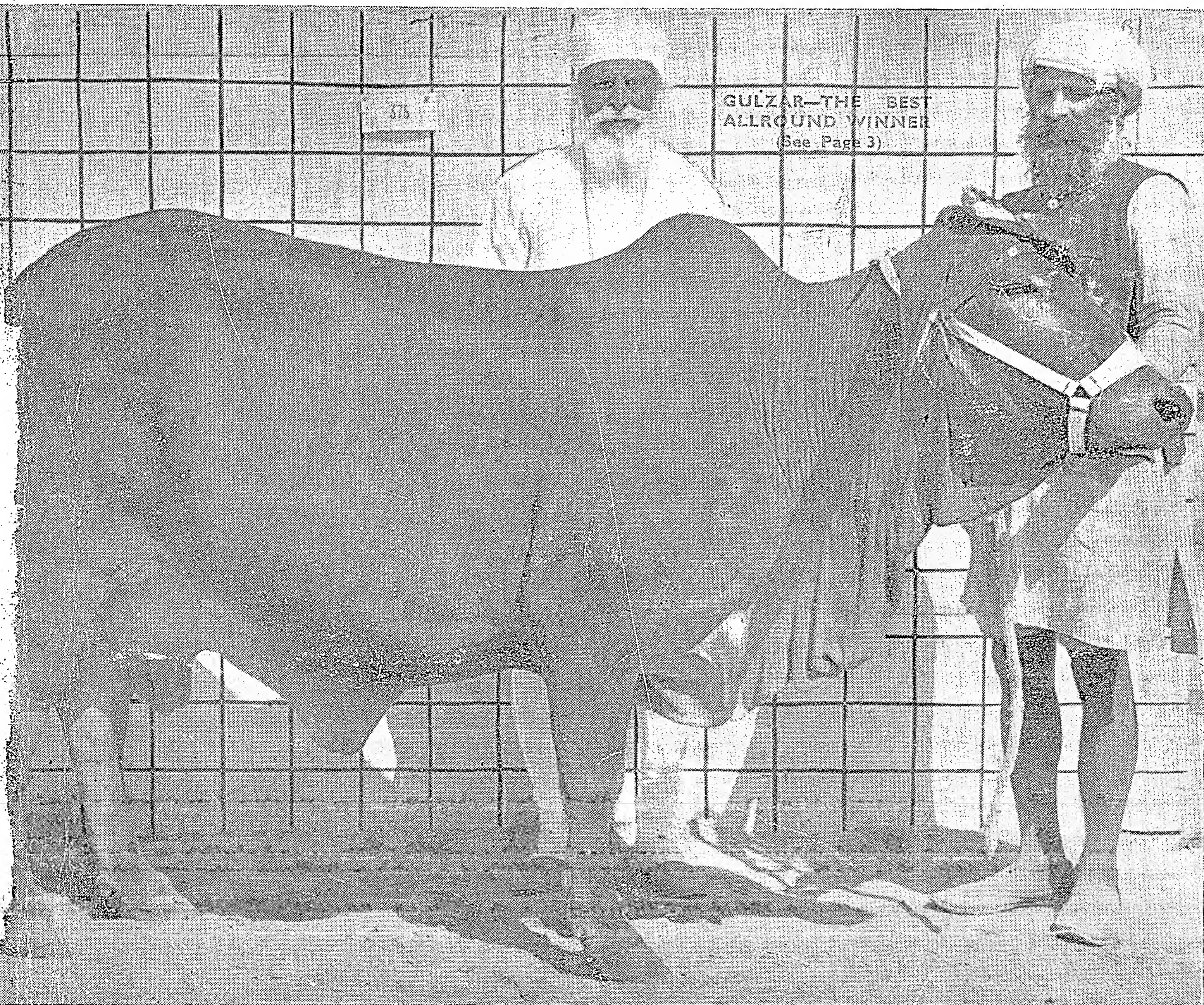
INDIAN FARMING



GULZAR—THE BEST ALLROUND WINNER
(See Page 3)

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INDIAN FARMING

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INDIAN FARMING

Important

For immediate attention :

Subscribers Please :

We have posted renewal reminders to all those readers whose subscriptions expire with the current issue. It will be appreciated if we are advised of the renewal for the new Series Vol. II April 1952-March 1953 in time. All remittances should be sent by M. O. or crossed P. O. in the name of the Agents. In case of crossed cheques bank charges should also be included. Annual subscription remains Rs. 9/- while for six months Rs. 4/8/- may be sent. For Foreign subscribers the subscription is Rs. 9/- plus postage Re. 1/11/-.

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Business Manager,
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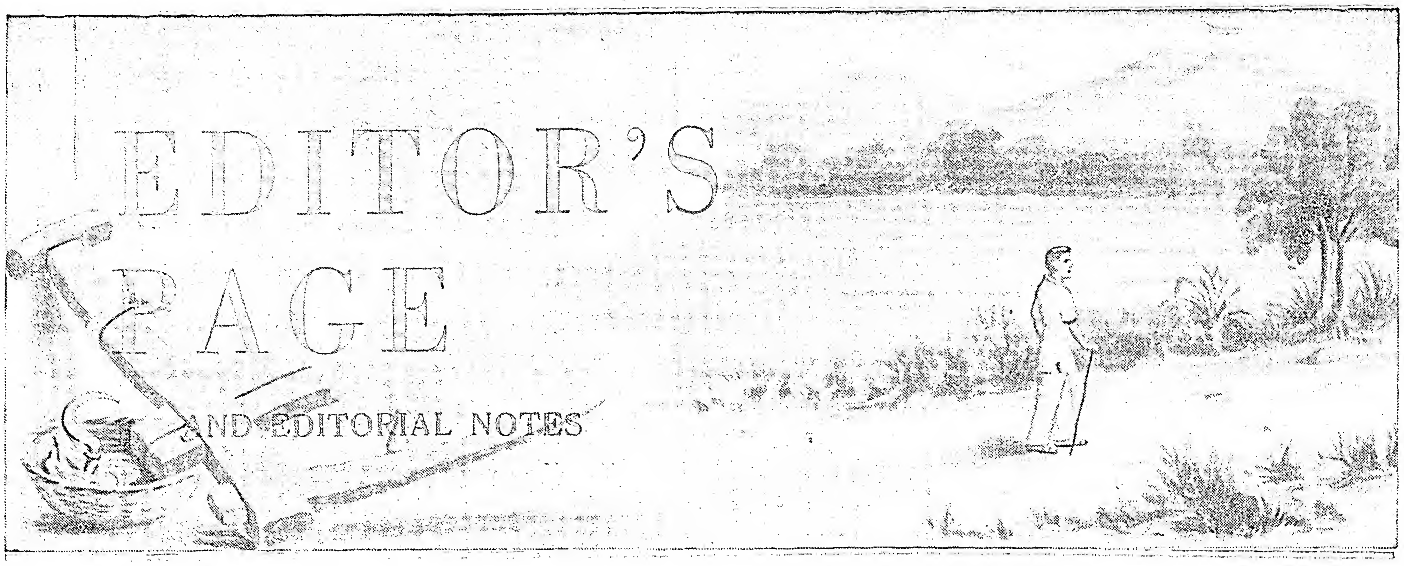


A friend of the 'Indian Farming' came out with a poser about the care and maintenance of agricultural machinery. It has been pointed out time and again that an advisory service to help the prospective buyer in selecting the right type of machinery suitable for the soil conditions and the requirements of the purchaser is necessary. This is because with so many types of machines the two essentials are pre-purchase guidance and after-sale service. In many cases the cultivator gets some service, in some cases he finds it difficult to locate the person who could set his machine right.

However, a third factor has also come to light and the friend who posed a simple question has set a problem which must be solved. A machine has hundreds of parts ranging probably from a small pin to the engine. In selling a machine the dealer has to arrange to keep all the parts ready for emergency but is it necessary for the emergency to arise so often as it does? Obviously not if the man who owns the machine and the man who runs it both know a little more about maintenance than they do now. It might so happen that the dealer might run out if a small part just at the time when one of his patrons comes rushing right at the time when even a day's delay would result in heavy loss. This would reflect badly on the dealer but the cultivator would lose everything. There appears to be a way out of this predicament...training the people who have a stake in the efficient running of machines. There are, for instance, a number of tractor training schools which do part of the job. This however is not enough. Somebody belonging to cultivator's own people should be trained and manuals of care and maintenance should be prepared in the local languages to enable the users to locate minor faults right on the spot and set them right.

The task of getting the cultivator to know more about his machines is not easy and the co-operative planning of agricultural information would lend itself to a campaign for propagating the correct way of doing things, which in general are common to all machines. Items such as keeping the engine free from dust, the right methods of refuelling and storing oils and lubricants, care of the tyres etc. have to be more popularly known. This could only be done if such associations as the Tractor Dealers' Association, Oil Companies Group, Tyre Manufacturers' and such other institutes join hands with the Government in setting up a general advisory body and in getting the right type of literature prepared for India-wide distribution.

Of course one might argue that everybody has his own interest to serve but, in general, such a move would serve all interests collectively and leave the competitive field to those who enter it. General practical hints on how to handle all types of machinery or the right way to go about getting things done will make for more interest. Even a compendium of all service organisations and depots set up by various agricultural trade interests prepared for reference in some of the major languages of the country would be a right step at the right time.

The ultimate result of such a move would be to encourage the cultivator not to lose patience and run for every little thing to the dealer but be more self-

reliant, take more proper care of his machines and learn to take more work out of them without breaking them to pieces. The agricultural authorities would be spared a lot of hectic running about trying to help the farmer set things right and the dealer will find that he no longer is a much abused man.

PREPARATION OF COMPOST BY MUNICIPALITIES

The scheme under which municipalities have been composting town refuse has been continued by the Government of Bombay for a period of four years, from March 1, last.

This scheme was first sanctioned in 1947 for a period of five years. Its object is to train municipalities and such of the village panchayats as have the necessary staff for the collection of village wastes, in the methods of composting refuse, as one of the steps to increase the output of organic manure in the State.

According to information available, a total of 233 Municipalities and 60 Village Panchayats were trained in compost making. Of these 181 Municipalities and nine Panchayats reported production during 1950-51 of 2.62 lakh tons.

The current production figures justify this extension and all efforts must be made to increase production.

UTTAR PRADESH : NON-OFFICIAL EFFORT

Forty thousand acres in 300 villages of Basti district in U. P. have been selected for intensive development by non-official effort.

Mr. K. D. Malaviya, former Development Minister of U.P. and now a member of Parliament from Basti district, is the Chairman of the Development Council formed to pool the resources of the co-operative movement in the area.

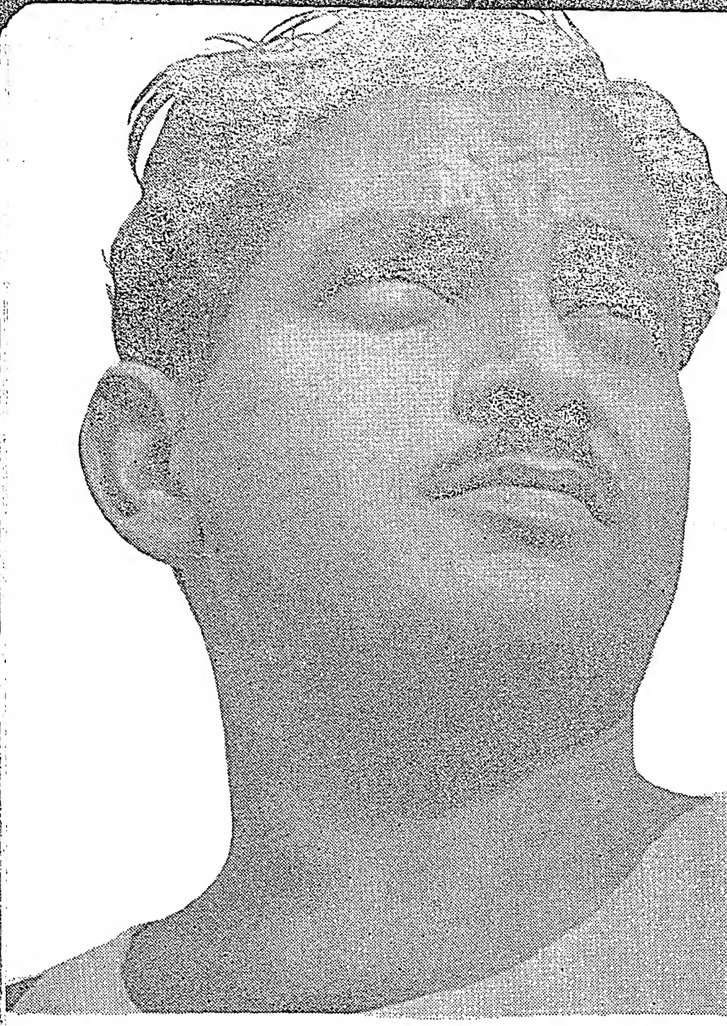
The plan, based on the principle of self-help and co-operation of villagers, is a modification of the pilot development project of Etawah launched during Mr. Malaviya's term of office. It aims at integrating the co-operative societies having a membership of 14,000 into one unit.

The emphasis on co-operation is worth noting because integration and co-ordination of co-operative movement is bound to lead to increased participation of the people.

COVER PICTURE

THE BEST MILCH TYPE COW IN INDIA

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research decided to award a prize of Rs. 1000, donated by Shri Purshotamdas Thakurdas, to the best milch type cow in India. The animal which has won this prize this year is 'Gulzar'. It is also the winner of the prizes awarded at the 11th All-India Cattle Show 1952 for the best Sahiwal Cow, Best Milch type cow and Best cow. 'Gulzar' is owned by His Holiness Satguru Partap Singh Ji of Jiwan Nagar, Sirsa, District Hissar (Punjab). She is 5 years and 6 months of age and has already completed two lactations. Her yield during the first lactation was, 6,000 lbs. and in the second 7,500 lbs.



THE MAN OF THE MONTH

RAJA—A Flight From Law To Land

By

SHER SINGH

MAY 1943 was an exceptionally hot month that we have had in Lucknow at least during a good many years that I have passed in this picturesque town of domes, parks and gardens. The mercury even in the nights used to touch 110 sometimes. I had finished my educational career and was due to leave on a short photographic assignment while Raja intended to study Law after graduation. This was the last night that we were having together in our beloved hostel in front of which lay the expansive Hockey grounds and the main University building glimmering under a heavy moon. Raja had given many a brilliant display in hockey on this very ground—as a matter of fact it was here that he had won laurels as one of the finest players in the Province. Night was past its bloom and the morning hours were drawing nigh but we were miles away from sleep. Each one of us had his own problems. For me the future, after the short assignment that I had managed to secure, was bleak. I had either to enter journalism or to take up photography as my career. Raja was afraid of law. He thought he could never be so promising in the class as he was on the field. Any way he had to come back to the University in the next session and I had very little hopes of seeing him again for some time to come.

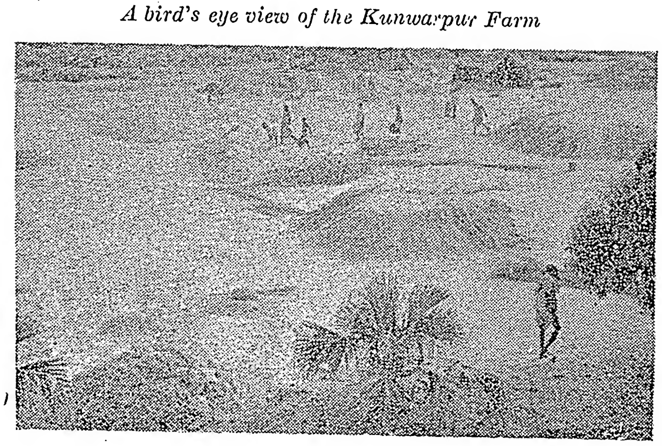
FARMING REPLACES LAW

During the next four years I heard very little of Raja, formally known as Kumar Naresh Singh, and probably had a couple of hurried opportunities of meeting him. I again settled down in Lucknow and one hot summer afternoon I was sitting down on my lawns actually gasping for breath when all of a sudden Raja dropped in as if from no where. He was perspiring, tired and pulled down. It was both a delight and a surprise to have met an old intimate friend. My first thought was that he had come to Lucknow on some legal assignment and the first question that I asked him was about his success at the bar. He looked at me and gave a queer smile that I had never seen on his face during my four years of association with him. A cold drink again brought him back to his old cheerful self. "Practice at the bar" he said contemptuously, "Far away from it. I have never been able to pass my law previous even". I was actually amazed. "It is a strange irony of fate", he continued, "I am now being forced by my eldest brother to go and look after our farm situated twenty miles from Lucknow on the Sitapur Road".

FORCIBLE CONVERSION

I had always been enamoured of an out door life and particularly life on a farm. I personally felt that it was one of the best opportunities that a young man could get. I was myself certain that Raja would take up this life very willingly but unfortunately the case was different. For nearly fifteen minutes I spoke to him about the glorious mornings of the country side, excellence of climate, and all the boons that an out door life could bestow. He seemed to be very slightly moved and after a long sigh he said, "you don't understand how we have to live on a Farm. There is abso-

A bird's eye view of the Kunwarpur Farm



lutely no company. The days are passed either reading, which I hate, or sitting dumb. I had been there for fifteen days and now I am never going to get back". This ended our conversation and Raja left disappointed feeling that I could not sympathise with him.

For a year or so Raja's trips to his farm were just like short picnics. He would go to Kunwarpur, a small hamlet where his farm is situated, stay there for a couple of days and then come back to Lucknow and stay with me. He always used to feel bored by even a day's halt at his farm. But he took it up.

RAJA MAKES GOOD

When I landed in the Agriculture Department in 1950 my interest in Raja's activities increased. By now he had become a full fledged farmer—enlightened, enthusiastic and industrious. My contacts with him for the last two years have practically been fortnightly. Whenever I pass that way I drop in to see him and always I find him busy laying down experiments in small plots which he has set aside for this purpose. His spare time is spent in reading all available literature on agriculture both foreign and Indian. He is keen to get every printed word on agriculture right from the one

Raja grafts his own mango-plants

pice leaflets produced by the U. P. Department of Agriculture to the Indian Farming issued from Bombay. Besides being a voracious reader of this type of literature he is also very keen on visiting the fields of his neighbours who have always benefited by his knowledge. I often feel surprised at this sudden change in his life. A man who could never think of leaving the town and probably had the usual aspirations of either settling down in the bar or in service, a man who was keen on sports but slack in his studies has now taken up farming as his career. If now I ever ask him to come down to Lucknow he smiles comtemptuously and says, "Oh, I am very happy here, I do not want to get into the din of the busy town life again. That is finished for me for ever".

THE FARM IMPROVES

Raja took over charge of Kunwarpur farm in 1947. The farm had an area of 120 acres, forty of which were under a mango orchard. There were twenty buffaloes then and the condition of the orchard was pitiable. It was overgrown with dense weeds and was an abode of bluebulls, wolfs and jackals. The first thing that Raja felt after he settled down was that the buffaloes were useless. They ate a lot and their out-put was

Walking through the orchards

terribly low. The income from the orchard was only Rs. 2,200/- and the agricultural crops like wheat, barley, paddy, peas, sugarcane, gram, *arhar* and *urd* that were being grown were yielding an income of about Rs. 5,000/-. Besides the meagre out-put of the buffaloes the labour problem in Kunwarpur then was acute.

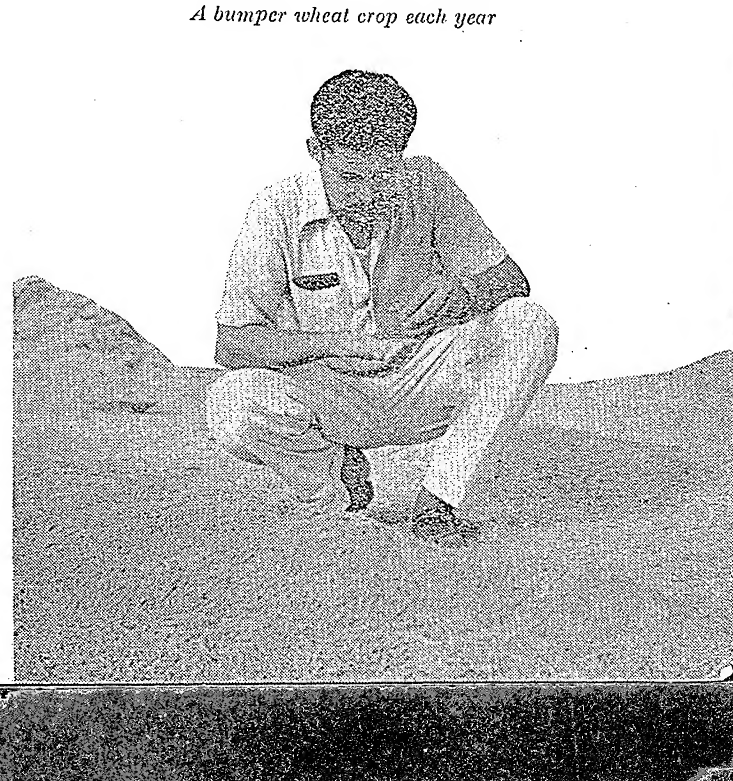
Raja's agricultural knowledge was nil, the condition of the farm was pitiable, and the slogan of GROW MORE FOOD was haunting him all the time. He ran frantically for advice and invited officers of the Agriculture Department to his farm. Raja started working on a few points gathered from here and there about manuring, improved seeds, better rotation of crops he took to mechanised farming. The eradication of weeds in the orchard was a problem to him and in early 1948 he purchased a John Deere Model A tractor with all the implements.

IMPROVED METHODS

Raja took to composting and green manuring of wheat, sugarcane and paddy crops by Sanai and Moong Type One. He dug fifty compost pits and green manured about thirty five acres in the first year. The results were encouraging and the yield was more than doubled. He also tried leaf mould, ashes, canal silt, bone meal and phosphate of ammonia, and got a good response.

For irrigation the Kunwarpur Farm has a minor canal running through it. After about a couple of years Raja got disgusted of the canal system as he could not get enough water at times when he required. Moreover he is of opinion that the canal waters bring in the

A bumper wheat crop each year

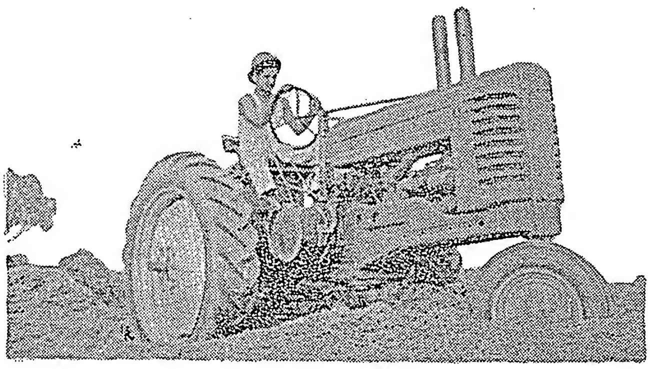


seeds of different types of pernicious weeds which are difficult to eradicate. He has purchased a pumping set in 1950 and proposes to have more pumping sets and masonry wells to supplement the canal system. He believes that high yields and bumper crops are not possible without proper irrigation.

He holds that until the average cultivator is not told and made to act on better and more lucrative rotation of crops his income cannot go up.

UP GOES THE INCOME

Soon after he purchased the tractor he made up his mind to eradicate the weeds from his 40 acres orchard. He ploughed and reploughed, harrowed and reharrowed till there was no trace of weeds on that land. The mango plants that were drying up came back to life. In the orchard Raja is taking leguminous crops which besides giving him an extra income fix nitrogen in the soil. He has 120 varieties of mangoes besides litchi, guava, banana, jack-fruit, citrus fruit and sapatu. The income of the orchard from Rs. 2,200/- in 1948 has gone up to Rs. 15,000/- in 1951 and his target is Rs. 25,000/- which he hopes he will be able to achieve within a couple of years. He has now taken to grafting himself.



Tractor has also helped a lot

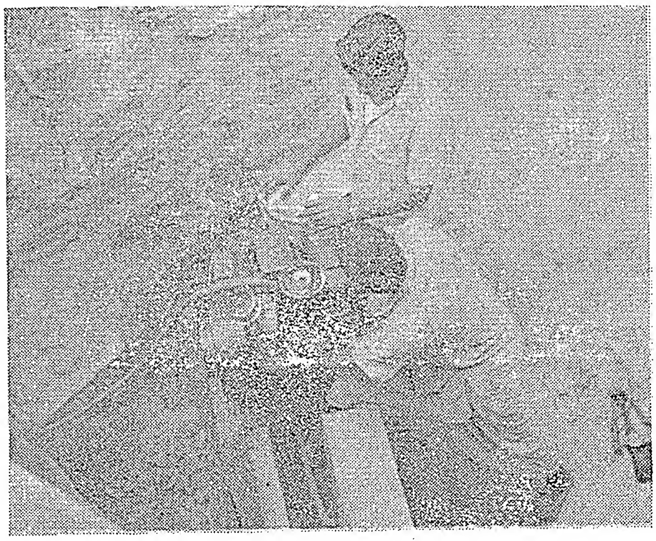
ALSO A DISTRICT CHAMPION

He is an ardent believer in crop competitions because they enthuse the farmers a lot. He has produced the highest quantity of Moong Type One in the district of Sitapur and this year he has been declared the winner in wheat competition on the district level. His produce was 46 maunds 10 seers an acre. He says that he could have produced more provided he had better irrigation facilities.

A comparative chart of the yields of some of the crops per acre during the years 1948 and 1952 is given below :—

	1948	1952	
1. Wheat	10 maunds	46 maunds 10 seers	
2. Barley	6 ,,	35 ,,	
3. Paddy	20 ,,	39 ,,	(1951)
4. Sugarcane	600 ,,	1375 ,,	
5. Potato	150 ,,	390 ,,	

The nett profit per acre from the agricultural portion of the farm when Raja took over in 1947 was Rs. 75/-. Today it is more than Rs. 250/- per acre, and he thinks it should at least reach the figure of Rs. 500/- per acre for big holdings.



Water has to be pumped up from a great depth

BROTHER, AN OLYMPIC HOCKEY CHAMPION

They are six brothers and five of them are outstanding Hockey stars and have represented the provincial teams during their days. Babu, the youngest is captaining the Indian Hockey team going to participate in the World Olympics at Helsinki. They have identical hobbies, photography and shooting being the favourities.

The Kunwarpur Farm gives a sumptuous monthly allowance to all the brothers who are busy with their own professional activities.

Raja aspires to have a dairy and a poultry farm but he is handicapped by the fact that there are no finances at his disposal and no pasture lands near about. He is very much interested in the reclamation of Usar lands and has recently acquired a 24 acre Usar plot to conduct his experiments on it. Besides this he has reclaimed 90 acres of waterlogged lands infested with weeds and is taking paddy and gram on this farm. He has put up a small bund and has made arrangements for proper drainage.

FROM DESK TO FIELD

He thinks that the Agriculture Officers should have a lot more field work to do than what they do on their desks.

(*Continued on page 32*)

Women workers add a bit of colour to an already colourful scene


Active hands get dirty...
and where there's dirt there s Danger from germs!
Wash often with
LIFEBUOY SOAP
it protects you from the germs in dirt!
L. 113-193

Hints to the farmer :

GREEN MANURING FOR BETTER CROPS

By A. R. KHAN,
Division of Agronomy, I. A. R. I., New Delhi

WITH *rabi* harvest just over, farmers are getting ready for the next planting. They are now being asked to produce food and fibre, as they never produced before. They are required to feed and clothe an ever increasing population of the country.

To do this, however, they must feed the soil first, which, due to continuous cropping without adequate manuring, has become completely worn out. In our livestock system of farming, the feeding of crops to cattle and the return of manure produced to farm land, have not been maintained. About two-thirds of this manure is burnt and the rest, as a result of wasteful methods of handling, loses its nutrition. As an offset to these losses the farmers should adopt other forms of manuring, of which green manuring appears to be the cheapest.

The practice of green manuring is very old in India. It has been found useful for paddy in Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, M. P., and U. P., for sugarcane in Madras, U. P., Bihar and M. P. and for cotton in Bombay, Madras and U. P. An increased yield upto 100% has been recorded with some of these crops.

COMMON GREEN MANURE CROPS

An ideal green manure crop should be quick growing, succulent, easily decomposable with low moisture requirement, and able to produce maximum amount of organic matter and nitrogen. Some such crops in general use are: Sannhemp, Dhaincha, Pulses of the Phaseolus sp., Guar, Cowpea, and a few other leguminous plants such as Kulthi, Indigo and Arhar. A short description of the promising ones follows.

(1) Sannhemp is the most outstanding of all the green manure crops. It can be sown with rains and attains a height of 4 or 5 ft. in a few weeks even on poor soils provided they are not waterlogged. Sann is most popular in U. P., Bihar and M. P. but is also grown in other parts of India. The seed rate varies from 30 srs. to one maund per acre according to the nature of soil type. An average crop adds about 75 pounds of nitrogen to the soil per acre.

(2) Dhaincha occupies the second place after sann, for the purpose of green manuring. The advantage with this crop is that it can withstand adverse conditions of drought, waterlogging, salinity, etc. without much deterioration. It is the chief green manure crop for swampy rice areas in Madras, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and Bombay. The seed rate used is from 15 to 20 seers per acre. An average crop adds about 70 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

(3) There are a number of *kharif* pulses, belonging to the species 'Phaseolus' used for green manuring. Of these moth, *urid* and *mung* are important. In Madras, and Bombay another variety of this species known as 'pillipesara' in Madras and 'ranmatki' in Gujarat are also popular. This adds about 50 lbs. nitrogen per acre to the soil.

In U. P. a variety of Mung, called type 1 has recently been found promising. It adds about 40 pounds nitrogen per acre when green manured after taking the seed. The yield of grain is also reported to be about 6 mds. per acre. Seed is sown at the rate of 6 seers per acre.

(4) Guar is used as a green manure crop in the drier tracts of N. W. India. It adds about 56 pounds of nitrogen per acre with a seed rate of about 20 seers.

Besides the above summer legumes there are also a few winter legumes like berseem and *senji* which are grown in northern India under irrigated conditions.

(5) Berseem grows luxuriantly during winter with irrigation. In all there are about six cuttings of green fodder taken from this crop. For the purpose of green manuring, however, it is ploughed down at the stage of 4th cutting. It adds about 54 pounds of nitrogen per acre with a seed rate of 12 seers.

(6) *Senji* is another winter legume of great promise adding upto 120 pounds of nitrogen per acre under excellent condition of growth. The seed rate is 25 seers per acre.

(7) Khesari is another *rabi* legume taken in rotation with rice. It grows well on residual moisture and irrigation is generally not necessary. The quantity of nitrogen added through green manuring is about 55 pounds per acre with a seed rate of about 30 seers.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

In order to draw maximum benefit from green manuring the farmer should have a fair knowledge of cultural practices involved in the process. On these depend, generally, the success or failure of the system. The sowing of green manure crop may be so arranged as to facilitate its burial at a stage when it would furnish the maximum amount of plant food to the soil.

The following hints on cultivation may, it is hoped, prove helpful.

(*a*) *Soil*: Green manuring can be done on all types of land varying from clayey to sandy in nature. A heavy soil can be made porous and crumbly by the addition of organic matter and thus allow air and water to move freely in it. On light soils, it has a binding effect giving the land a 'loamy' character. In the absence of good structure produced by green manuring,

soils neither hold moisture nor stimulate all those biological and chemical processes jointly responsible for an increase in soil productivity.

(*b*) *Climate*: For the successful cultivation of green-manure crops the climate should preferably be humid, with an average rainfall of about 25 inches, well distributed over the whole period of growth and also a few weeks after the crop has been buried.

If crop is sown in hot weather one or two irrigations may be necessary before the break of monsoon. For winter green-manuring irrigation is essential.

(*c*) *Preparatory tillage*: The land is prepared and seed broadcasted by giving a couple of cultivations. In a dry season the seed may be covered by running the plank over. As a rule green-manure crops do not need much cultivation for seed-bed preparation.

(*d*) *Time of sowing*: There cannot be a general recommendation for a vast country like India having a varied type of climate. The consensus of opinion is in favour of early sowing after the break of monsoon. In Madras, under irrigated conditions, the sowing of green-manure crop has been recommended as early as middle of March. Sowings are done by about middle of June in eastern, and a fortnight later in the northern part of India. The best time for green-manuring in Bombay for sann, dhaincha, and pulses has been suggested as June or early July. The advantage of establishing the crop earlier than the setting of monsoon is to resist the damage from heavy rains.

(*e*) *Time of burial*: Between sowing and burying of the crop there is little to attend, except watering in the irrigated tracts, if rains fail. From the results of experiments it appears that a green-manure crop may be turned under at a stage when it is just about to flower. This may roughly coincide with a period of 8 weeks from sowing in case of most crops. For *rabi* legumes the time will naturally be more.

(*f*) *Method of burial*: This is best done with the help of iron ploughs, which invert the soil. To do the job efficiently the felling of crop with beam, before ploughing, is advisable. On mechanised farms the operation can be nicely done by means of a harrow plough.

The depth of ploughing-in of green crop, especially its proper incorporation into the soil, is very important for quick decomposition. In light soils the crop, as a rule, is buried deeper than the heavy ones.

Opinions differ in regard to the raising of crop at site or elsewhere for the purpose of burial. Experimental evidence is in favour of burying at site though, at times, it becomes difficult when the land is waterlogged. The growing of crop outside is not altogether without advantage as the transfer of moisture and soil nutrients from one field to the other is accomplished.

(*g*) *'Time' interval between burial and sowing of next crop*: Green-manuring is in short a practice of 'timings'. It succeeds only when the time of burying a crop fits in with the time of sowing the following crop. An experience of the interval required for the green crop to decompose and produce nitrates is essential. This is generally considered about 2 months under normal conditions. Those farmers who can arrange their sowings in a manner that the nutrients produced by the green-manure crop may not be lost due to leaching or reduction are successful; others are not. If this is rightly done green-manuring not only becomes a sound practice, but also a valuable aid in farming.

(*Contd. on page 32*)

IMPROVED VARIETIES OF FODDER CROPS FOR THE PUNJAB

By H. C. MALIK,
Fodder Botanist, Sirsa (Punjab)

THE most practical economical method of increasing crop yields is through the use of high quality seed of adapted varieties. In spite of good seed-bed preparation, addition of abundant manures, and fertilizers into the soil, and the best method of sowing, the results will be inferior and disappointing unless good adapted seed is used. It has been estimated conservatively that 15 to 20% increase in crop production can be brought about by the wide-spread use of the most satisfactory varieties.

There are fewer varieties of most of the forage crops from which to choose than is a case with cereals, vegetables and other crops. On the other hand, there is a large choice of crop plants for use, at least in irrigated areas, as for example, there is a number of varieties of Sorghum, lucerne, rapes and oats and a limited number of varieties in crops like moth, cowpeas and *senji*.

Since yield is the primary consideration in the growing of forage crops, the importance of selecting the right variety cannot be overemphasised.

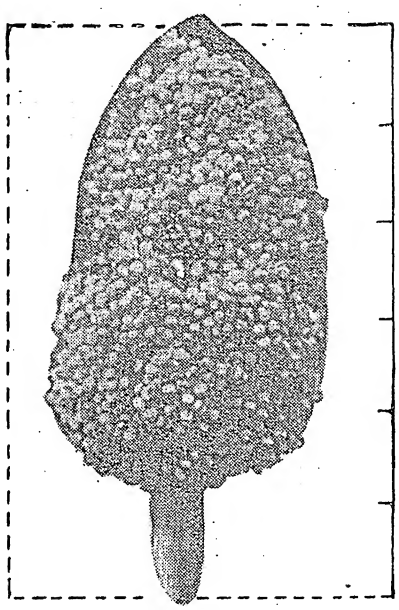
The varieties of fodder crops which have been evolved or introduced with marked degree of success in the Punjab State as a result of the research work at the Fodder Research Station, Sirsa, are given below for the benefit of the Indian farmer so as to enable him to make a wise choice suited to his requirements.

SORGHUM (*JOWAR*)

Though *jowar* is an important grain crop of the Indian Union, it is a premier *kharif* forage crop in the Punjab. On account of its admirable adaptability to varying soil and climatic conditions and high sustaining value, no other crop is considered equivalent to it in forage value during the summer season.

The growing season of the crop ranges from early April to the end of October or early November.

A number of varieties has been evolved at the Fodder Research Station, Sirsa, out of which Nos. 20 and 263 need special emphasis.



A compact ear of JOWAR No. 263 showing attractive creamy grains.

No. 20 is a tall growing variety with very lax ears having brown small seeds with persistent purplish or black glumes. On an average it takes 66 days to become ready for fodder and 102 days to ripe. This variety is eminently suited to dry farming conditions where it excels all others in forage and grain yield. Being non-sweet and thin stalked, it forms very good *karbi* which can be stored for long durations without deterioration. The crop can be sown any-time from the end of March to the end of July. It has yielded 470 maunds per acre of green fodder and 9½ maunds of seed per acre at Sirsa. Yields are low and vary much under dry farming conditions according to the time and quantity of rainfall.

No. 263 is a medium tall growing variety. It is very sweet with compact ears having bold attractive creamy grains. It is a dual purpose variety which gives very high yield both of green fodder and grain. On an average it has given 600 maunds of green fodder and 8 maunds of grain per acre. It is susceptible to borer attack but to a much less extent than other sweet varieties. Because of sweet and juicy quality it is very nourishing and increases the flow of milk.

It is primarily recommended for cultivation under irrigated conditions but does quite well under dry farming conditions where there is sufficient rainfall during its growing period. The crop is sown from the beginning of May to the end of July, using 24 to 30 seers seed-rate per acre for fodder. It requires two irrigations to become ready for fodder. Crop for raising seed is sown in the end of July using 6 to 8 seers seed-rate per acre.

COWPEAS No. 1

Cowpeas No. 1 is one of the most useful summer legumes. Not only it provides forage of high nutritive value but improves the fertility of the soil on which it is grown. It can also withstand moderate shade and therefore can be grown in orchards. Cowpeas grown mixed with non-legumes like maize form a very balanced feed for livestock.

Crop is sown from the beginning of March to the end of July but early sowings mixed with maize enable availability of green forage at a time when berseem crop is almost over in May. Ten seers cowpeas mixed with 20 seers maize per acre give very high yields of about 450 maunds forage per acre within 70 days.

SUDAN GRASS

It is a thin stalked variety of Sorghum (*jowar*) which tillers very profusely and enables green fodder to be obtained at a time when berseem is almost dry. The crop is sown at the rate of 10-12 seers per acre from middle of March to middle of July. Early sown crop provides fodder in May-June and gives 3-4 cuttings till September-October. Late sown crop either gives one cutting of forage or it can be allowed to ripen seed.

It yields 400-600 maunds of green fodder during the season in 3 cuttings and gives 4-6 maunds of seed if allowed to ripe. The same quantity of seed is obtained if after harvest, the field is not ploughed up but allowed to sprout and grow in next March-April.

TEOSINTE

It is another high forage yielding non-legume which grows during the *kharif* season. Sowing time ranges from early March to end of July but sowings in June-July make good growth and supply large quantities of green fodder during September-October when other *kharif* fodders are almost over and *rabi* ones have to be sown.

It is sown at the rate of 16 seers per acre for fodder and 8 to 10 seers for raising a crop of seed. Yields of 400-500 maunds per acre are common under irrigation.

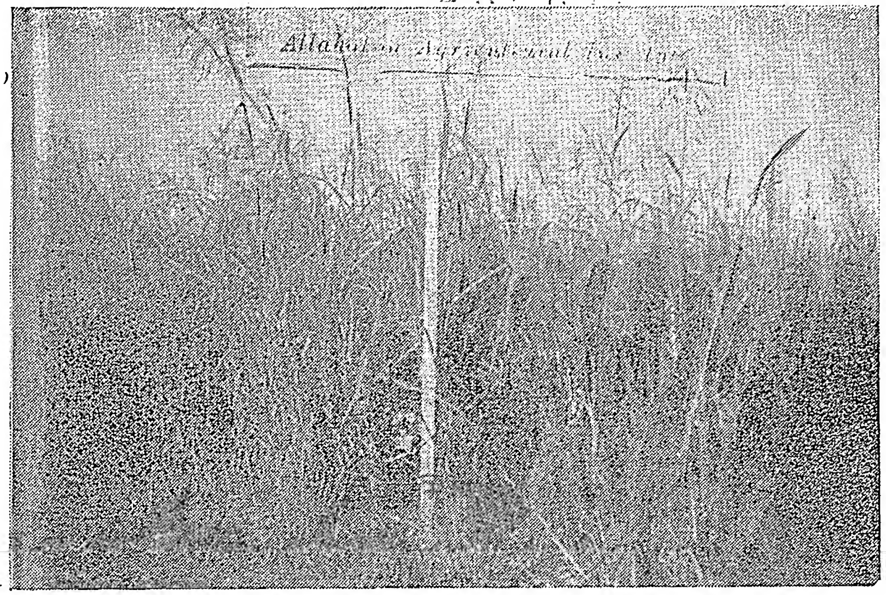
BERSEEM

Berseem is the premier fodder crop of the *rabi* season. Being a legume it is highly restorative and provides very nutritious and succulent feed for all kinds of livestock. The crop is sown from the end of September to the end of October under irrigation, using 8-10 seers seed-rate per acre. Pre-inoculation of the seed with berseem culture induces good growth and is conducive to high forage yield. Berseem makes slow growth to start with and takes on an average 50-55 days to become ready for first cutting. Usually forage yield is low in the first cutting, but a slight admixture, of say one-quarter seer seed of Japan rape (light green leaved) to an acre enables very heavy forage return. Thereafter crop is ready for cutting in 35 to 40 days and gives 4 to 5 cuttings of green forage yielding 600-800 maunds and even more per acre during the season. As growing of berseem enables large forage returns in one season it enables sufficient area to be released for other cash crops during the winter season.

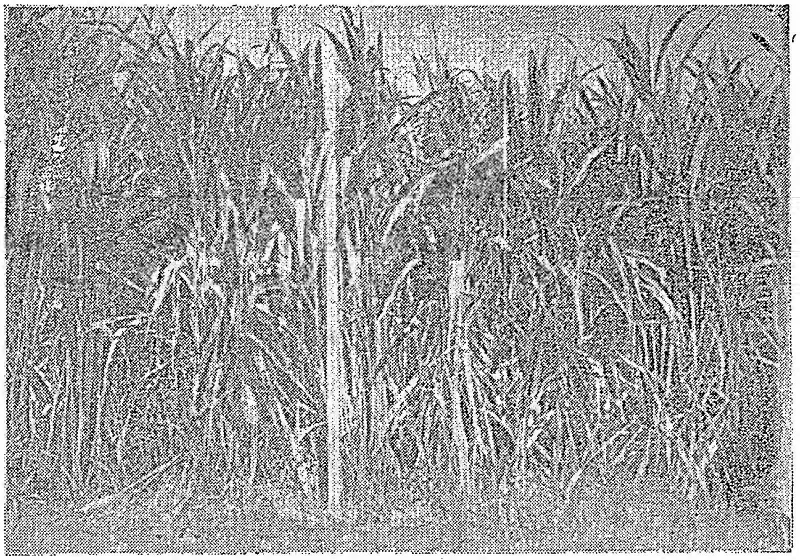
It is desired that weeds and *kharif*-free seed should be used. If it is required to raise a seed crop, it should be left to mature seed after taking its three cuttings. Crop ripens in May and yields 4-5 maunds of seed per acre.

OATS

Oat is a highly sustaining and very heavy forage yielding non-



Teosinte (Makchari)—a non-leguminous fodder crop having tall leafy growth



Sudan grass—a thin-stalked varity of Sorghum in early stage

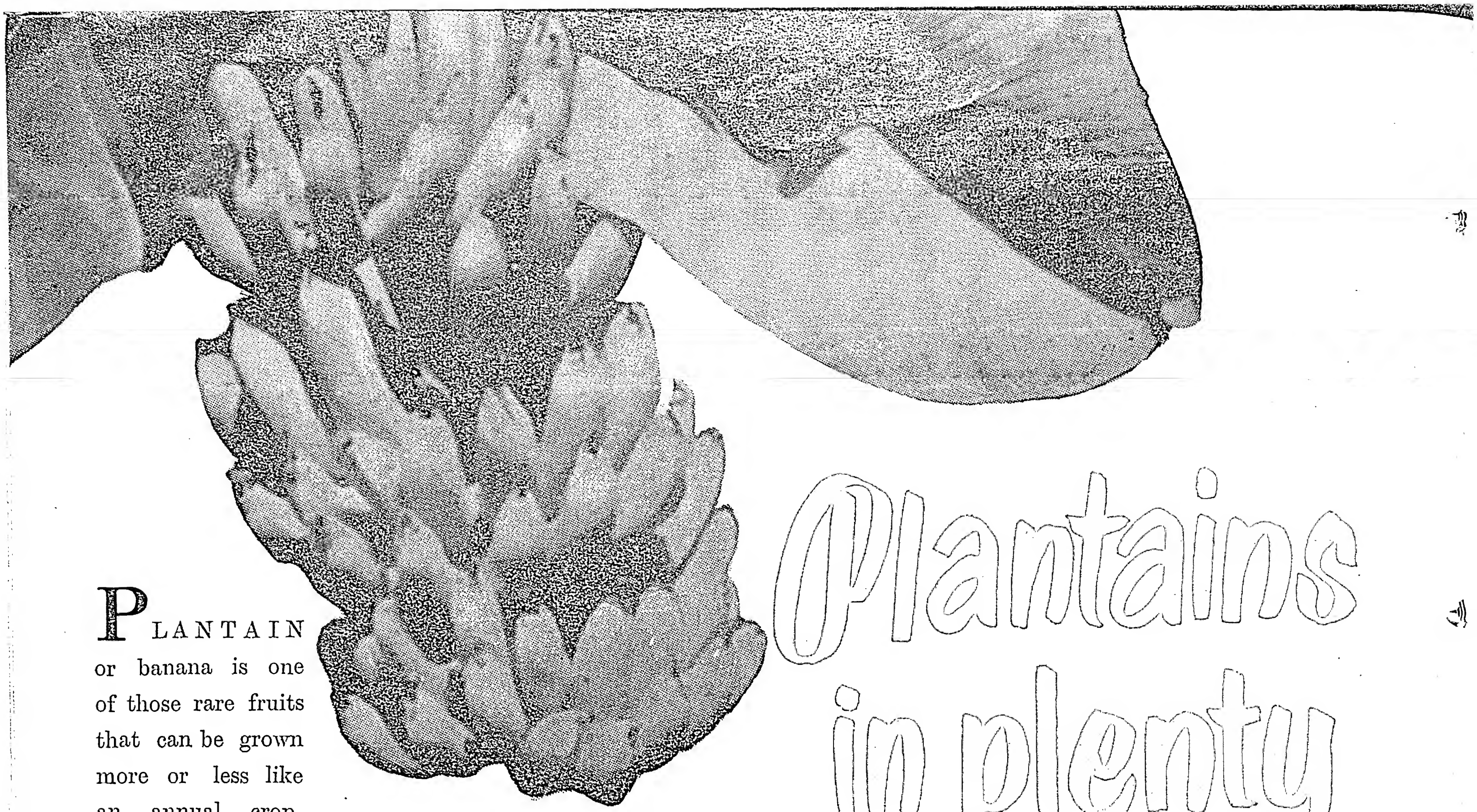
legume of *rabi* season. There is a number of varieties, viz. early and late maturing of this crop suited to different conditions. Early maturing varieties include Brunker 10, Weston 11 and I. P. Hyb. 3 and late maturing varieties include FOS 1/20, Algerian 19 and Fulgham 15.

The crop is grown both under irrigated and dry farming conditions in the winter season. Its sowing starts from October and is continued as late as December when it is too late for wheat. Twenty-four to thirty seers seed is enough to sow an area of one acre. In case of early sown crop it may give two cuttings.

RAPE

Japan rape (light green leaved) is an improved variety of rapes which not only gives high forage yield but is highly sweet and palatable. The crop is suited to both irrigated and dry farming conditions and sown from the end of September to the end of November. It is grown alone as well as mixed with other crops like berseem, wheat and gram. Two and a half to three seers seed is enough to sow an acre and yields on an average 400-500 maunds under irrigation and 150-200 maunds under dry farming conditions.

It is advisable for farmers to select a variety which is suited to their requirements and conditions.



Plantains in plenty

By B. L. CHOUDHRI, Sewagram, Wardha

PLANTAIN or banana is one of those rare fruits that can be grown more or less like an annual crop. The crop begins to give fruits in about 15 to 18 months and hence can be profitably included in a rotation plan of vegetable garden. The fruit is rich in food values and is very high yielding. It therefore forms one of the most important crops for growing more food.

The plant is hardy and easy to grow but being tropical or sub-tropical in nature it cannot stand severe winter. It can be grown upto an elevation of 5,000 ft.

Banana needs a rich, well drained soil. Any soil liable to water logging and severe cracking in the summer is unsuitable for banana cultivation.

There are two main types of fruits: One banana and the other plantain. These two are quite distinct from each other. Banana is commonly used as a ripe fruit whereas plantain is used as a vegetable and needs to be cooked to be palatable. Plantain is a coarse type. There are however some varieties which may be used for both cooking and ripening.

CULTIVATION

In a drive to attain self-sufficiency in food many cultivators of Wardha district in Madhya Pradesh have included banana as an important crop of their kitchen garden. A brief note on the method of cultivation followed by them is given here for the benefit of the readers.

A *kachar* or any medium type of soil is selected. The plot should be on a high area. It is ploughed by an iron plough in February-March and is then harrowed by a *bakher* to break the clods.

Pits are then dug at 6 to 8 feet apart as the variety grown is a dwarf-type. It is locally known as 'Bhusawal'. For tall growing varieties pits should be made 8 to 10 feet apart. Layout is generally done in square or oblong formation. In the latter case 6 feet spacing of plants within the line is given and the distance between the lines is kept at 8 feet. The size of the pits should be 2 ft × 2 ft × 2 ft. They should be got ready by the month of May. They are left exposed to the sun for a fortnight or so. They are then filled with a mixture of garden soil and night soil compost. Every pit should receive at least two baskets of manure. Pits are filled upto about six inches above the ground level so that no depression is formed in them after the setting of the soil.

Planting is taken soon after the first few showers in June-July. Planting should be completed in July as delay adversely affects the yield of the crop. Plants are raised from suckers. Water suckers with broad leaves and stunted growth are not suitable for propagation. Pointed, vigorous and quick growing sword suckers are selected for planting.

Suckers selected for planting should be carefully separated from the mother plant. The digging should be so done that the least damage is done to the rhizome. There will be some eyes growing on the rhizome of the sucker. They should be cut off. Likewise prune off all the roots upto about an inch and cut off the head of the suckers about 6 to 8 inches above the rhizome. The cut should be slanting. The sucker is now ready for planting. Planting should be done firmly in the centre of the pit. Planting is best done on a cloudy day or when it is lightly drizzling.

AFTER-CARE

Do not allow the weeds to grow in the field. Keep it clear and well mulched. The plant has a tendency

to throw suckers from the side. All growing suckers should be removed.

The plants need liberal irrigation. Watering once in a fortnight during winter and once in a week to once in four or five days in summer should be done. In no case the plants should be allowed to suffer for want of water.

It is a gross feeder; hence needs plenty of manure. A top dressing of compost is given during October-November followed by another in the beginning of the rainy season. The plot is earthed up at this time. If available non-edible oilcake is also applied.

The plants begin to flower after about 12 months of planting in July-August and the fruits are ready for harvest from December onwards. After the formation of a certain number of whorls there is no fruit setting. When this stage is reached the lower portion of the inflorescence is cut off. As the fruits develop the plant should be staked otherwise it is liable to fall down due to the weight of the bunch.

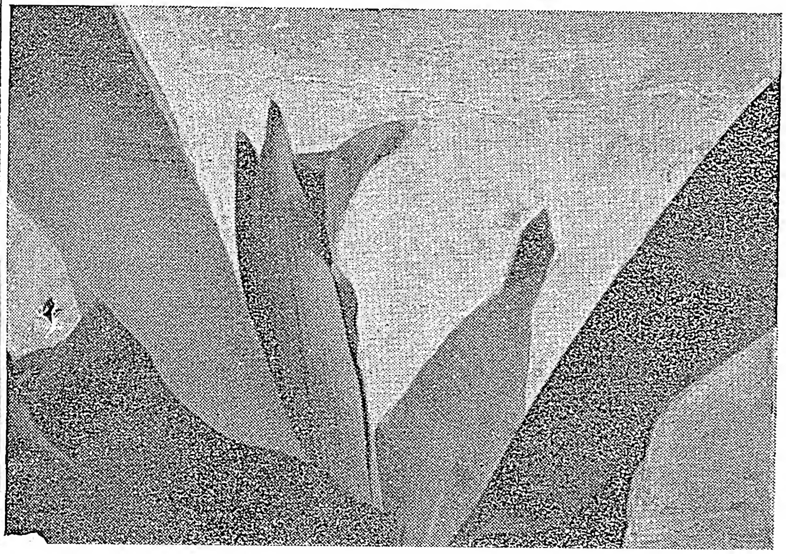
If it is desired to take a ratoon crop allow only one sucker to grow by the side of each fruiting plant. This will become the mother plant for the ratoon crop. Only one ratoon crop is taken. Dry leaves from fruiting plants should be regularly cut and removed.

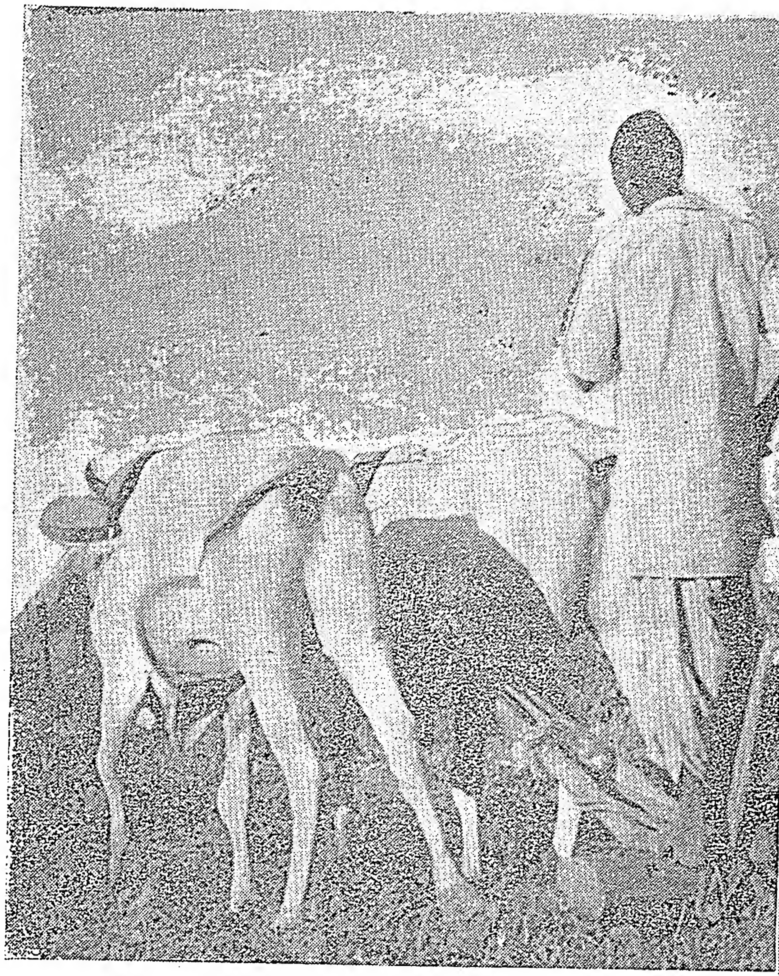
When the fruit is half mature the bunch is shaded by bending the banana leaves over it or it may be wrapped with dry banana leaves. This improves the colour of the fruits and saves them from hot winds and sun. Banana should be harvested when fully matured. This is shown by the drying of the pistil attached to the apex of the fruit and also by its edgeless shape. It is better to delay harvest till a few fruits from the topmost whorl start ripening on the tree. Cut off the bunch with as long a stalk as possible. After the bunch is removed the plant is dug out leaving the daughter sucker in the field. Fruits are ripened indoor in paddy straw, dry leaves or generally by smoking in a closed oven.

Yield obtained on one of the farms is given below:

Number of trees planted	..	684
Number of trees in fruit	..	660
Total number of fruits	..	36,567
Average number of fruits per plant	..	56 (weight about 5 seers)
Outturn per acre is about	..	150 maunds.

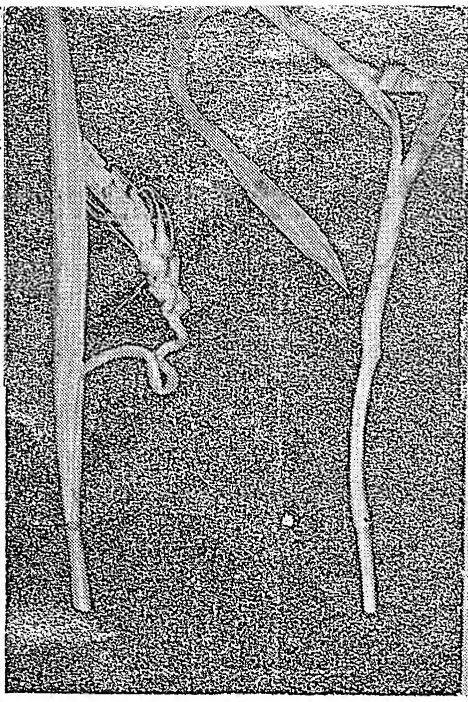
Flowering makes its appearance beautiful



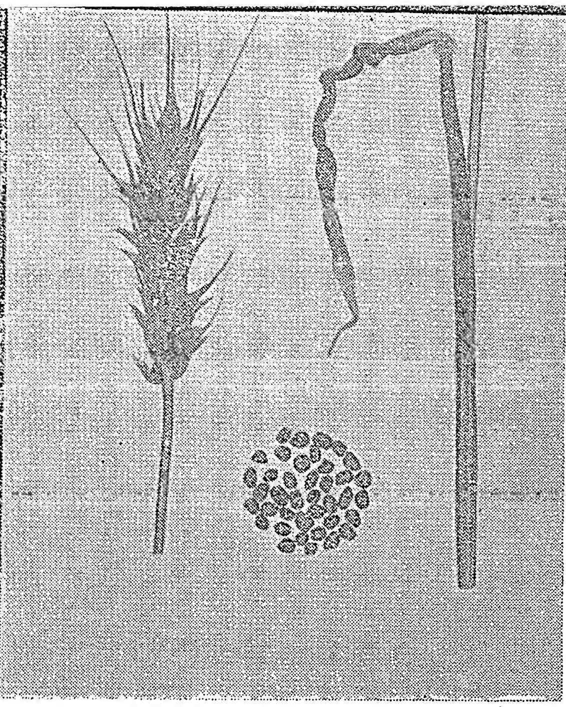


Preparing the field soft by ploughing

For first planting soil is pressed round the sucker



Tannan or Tundu disease of wheat— Distortion of the stem immediately below the head.



Tannan or Tundu disease of wheat—Hard, dark galls in place of normal kernels

TANNAN OR TUNDU DISEASE OF WHEAT

By

R. S. VASUDEVA & M. K. HINGORANI

Division of Mycology & Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

MOST of us are familiar with the fact that bacteria, visible only beneath our lenses and by special means, cause a number of harmful diseases among human beings and animals, e.g. cholera, tuberculosis, influenza, pneumonia and typhoid fever. Very few are, however, aware of the ravages they cause as plant parasites, especially in India. There are more than 200 such diseases spread all over the world on various kinds of plants and, one of these, locally known as Tannan or *Tundu*, affects our wheat crops. This trouble is particularly severe in Delhi State and in certain parts of the Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In Delhi State alone the damage can be safely put at about 1 to 2 per cent on an average, but losses exceeding 50 per cent have been observed in individual fields. As the affected ears fail to yield any grain, its appearance even in a mild form is responsible for considerable loss.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISEASE

The principal characteristics of this disease are curling of the emerging leaves and the development of a bright yellow slime or gum on the inflorescence and parts of the stem, forming adherent sticky layers between the glumes and between the stem and the sheath. This slime is composed of bacterial mass and the the outer exposed portions become dried up, hard, and brittle, and at the same time take on a deeper yellow tone. Another common feature is the distortion of the stem immediately below the head, due to the interference of the sticky bacterial masses with the growth and expansion of the plant.

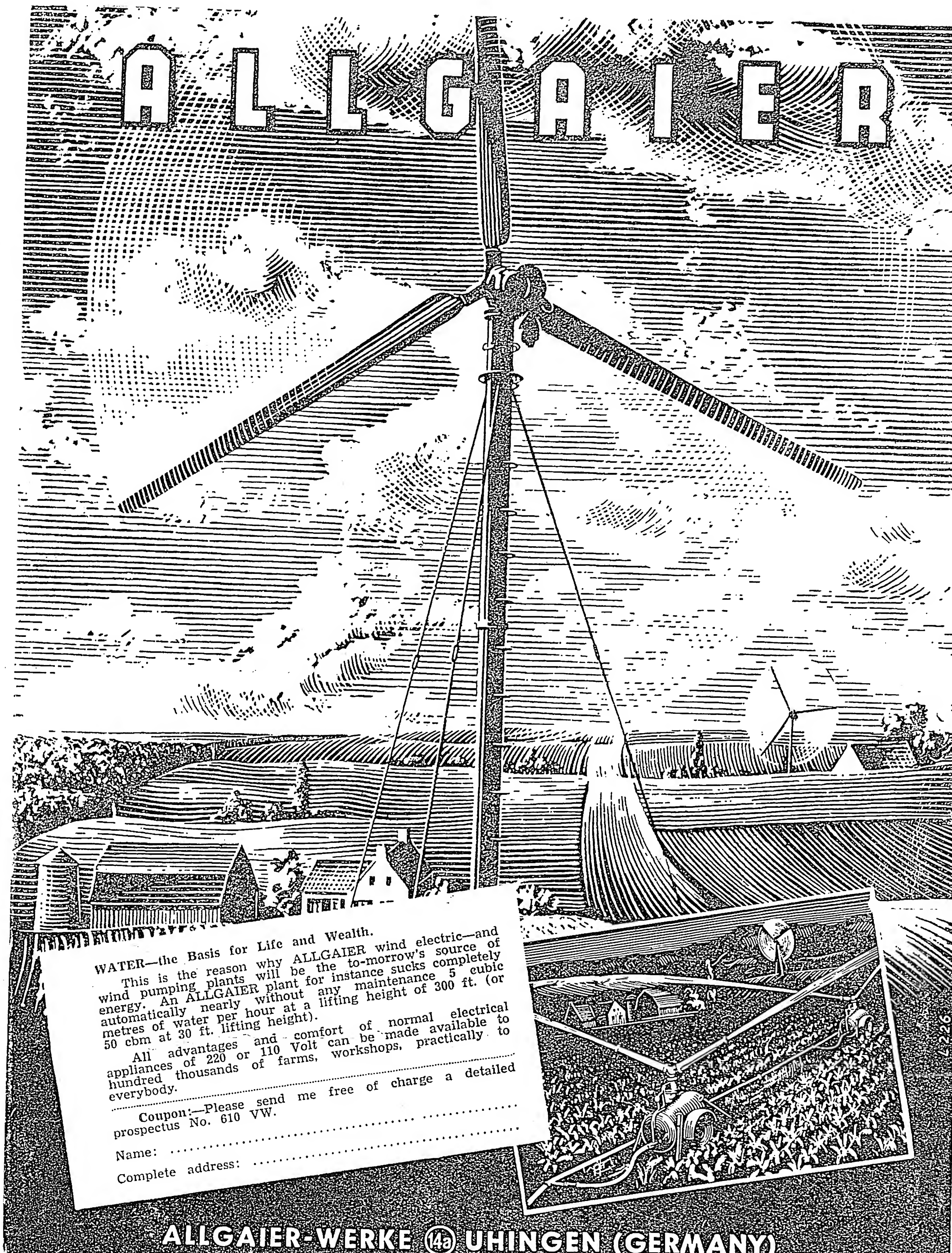
The cause of the disease is a bacterium (*Corynebacterium tritici*). These germs are, however, unable to attack wheat plants directly, but require the presence of eelworms known as nematodes (*Anguillulina tritici*). This peculiar worm causes another dreadful disease of wheat which is known as *Mamni*, *Dhanak*, *Gegla*, or Earcockle. In the seedling stage, the nematodes cause wrinkling, twisting and various other distortions of the leaves, and sometimes enlargement of the stem. Nematodes form small raised rounded areas or galls on the leaves. Infected plants are usually shorter and thicker than normal ones. Seedling severely infected with nematodes often wilt and die. In the mature heads of wheat, the disease is characterized by the presence of hard dark galls in place of normal kernels. The galls are somewhat thicker than wheat kernels and cause the glumes to spread apart as in bunt-infected head.

These galls or so-called cockles, because they resemble the seed of European Cockle weed, contain both the nematodes and the bacterium. When they fall to the ground or are sown with the wheat seed, the worms escape into the surrounding moist soil and, on coming in contact with the seedling shoots, penetrate between the leaf sheaths near the apical or growing point of the shoots. They also carry the bacterium which causes the disease. It is interesting to note that, where the disease occurs, all the affected plants do not show bacterial symptoms, but instead sufficient cockles are produced to begin the cycle over again in the next growing season.

FLOATING OF THE GALLS

It is clear from this that the control of earcockle will ensure a simultaneous check of *tundu* disease. Among other things, our investigations have shown that a farmer can get rid of this menace within a couple of years by sowing clean wheat seed from which galls have been removed. This can be easily achieved by floating off the galls in water just before sowing. The galls are lighter than the kernels and, therefore, do not sink to the bottom. Some of them may stick to the seed, but majority of them can easily be removed if the water is continuously stirred for about fifteen minutes. This process is very simple and economical. The only apparatus required is an earthenware or a metallic vessel, large enough to handle about 25 seers of seed at a time, with a spout at the top to decant off water along with the galls

(*Continued on page 19*)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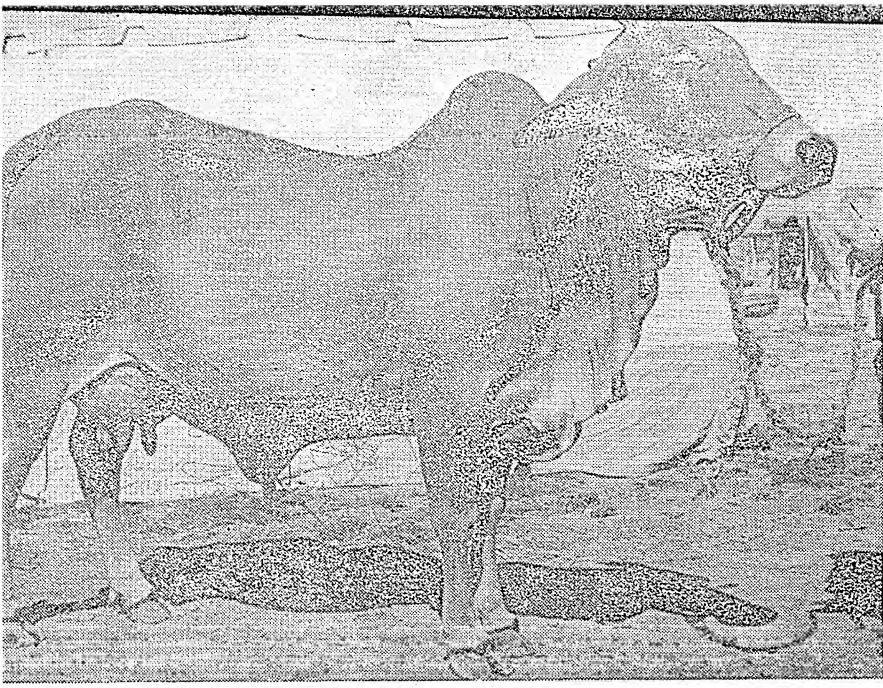
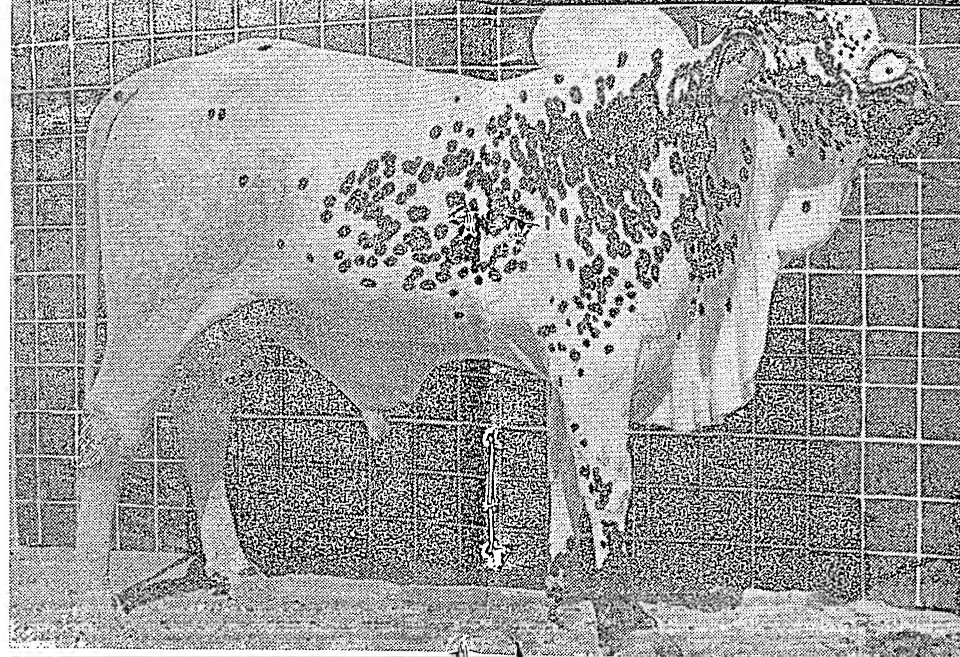
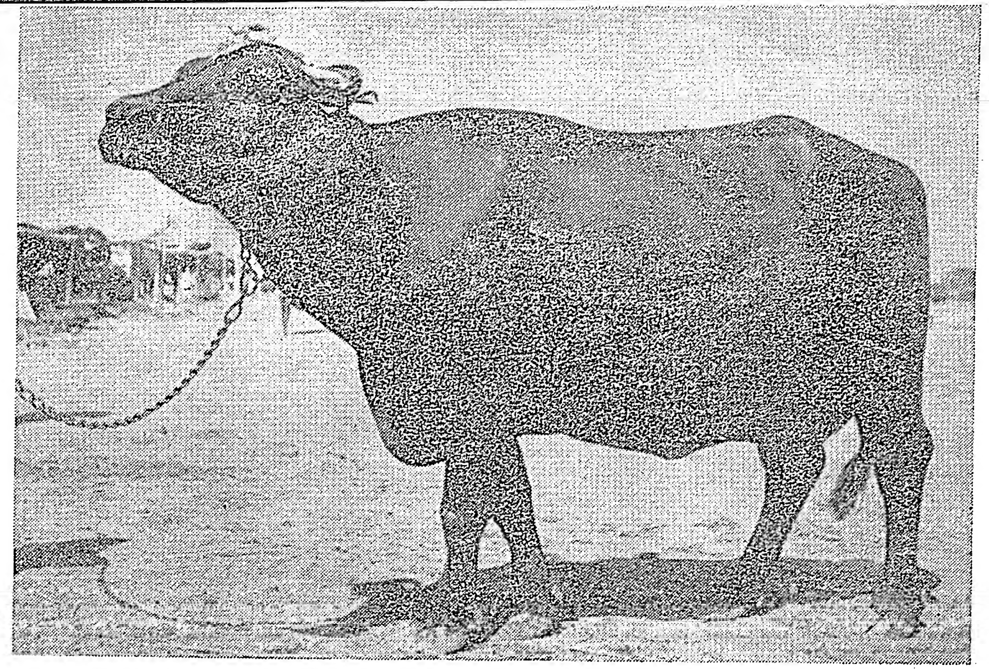


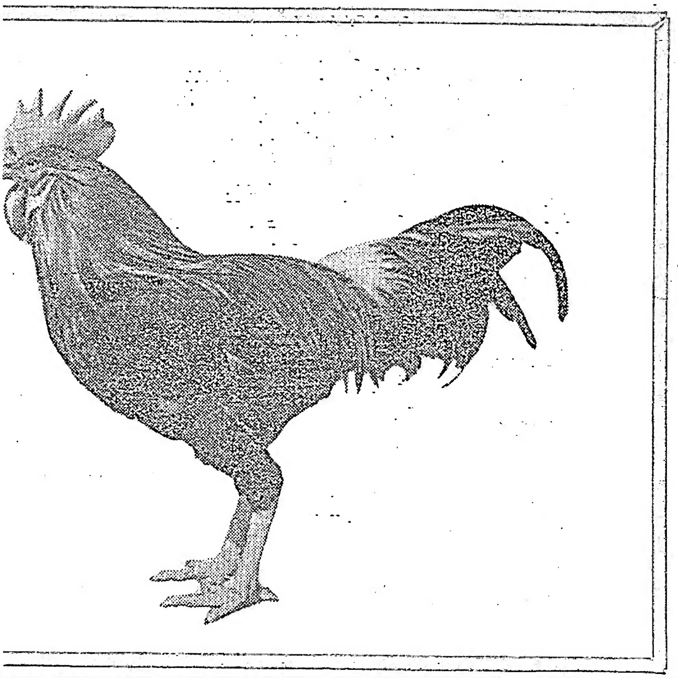
Sahiwal cow—highest milk yield. 1st prize goes to her—Owned by the Military Farm Dept.



The best animal in the show—Deoni bull owned by Shri Tukaram of Udgeri (Bidar)



The best buffalo bull in the cattle show



best "desi" cock at the show (owner Mr. Johnson of Ajmer)

Eleventh All-India Cattle Show

BLACK AND WHITE DEONI BULL VOTED BEST ANIMAL

By S. L. DHINGRA,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi.

AFTER a lapse of two years, the All-India Cattle Show was again held this year in the Capital from February 22 to 27. In conjunction with this Show was also held the Eighth All-India Poultry Show. The venue of the Show was the picturesque Bella grounds near Rajghat by the banks of the Jumna. Entries totalled nearly 600. Seventeen out of the 34 recognised breeds of cattle in the country had been entered. Forty-four animals were entered in the sheep and goat sections.

POULTRY PARADE

In the poultry section, 650 entries were received from the Punjab, U.P., Rajasthan, Ajmer-Merwara, Bombay, Madras, Delhi, Bihar as well as from military farms. In this section, foreign breeds acclamatised and bred in this country, like White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, Black Minorcas, Orpingtions and Australorps were also entered. There were many hardy Indian varieties to represent the country's poultry population of 58 million. An improved *deshi* strain, evolved at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, and with a consistent laying performance of around 140 eggs was on view. Some interesting exhibits of the native *Aseels*, whose males are famous for their fighting qualities as game cocks, were also on show.

A noteworthy feature of the Show was the absence of foreign or hybrid breeds in the cattle section. This was due to the fact that it is the policy of the Government to encourage improvement of indigenous strains. Hybrid animals, according to experts, have been found to show the favourable qualities of both foreign and Indian strains in the initial stages but are prone to show the defects of both after some time and are not, therefore, suited to Indian conditions.

SCIENTIFIC BREEDING

Declaring the Show open, Sri Prakasa, now Governor of Madras, stressed the need of an all round improvement and development of Indian cattle. "It may perhaps surprise you to know," he said "that we have only one breeding bull where 250 are required; and the amount of fodder available for them cannot maintain them in proper health and vigour. What we need is scientific breeding and feeding, controlling diseases and making proper arrangements for marketing."

PRIZES FOR CHAMPIONS

The central feature of the Show was of course the choosing of the champions. The Cattle Show awarded 81 cups, shields and other rewards of the value of about Rs. 65,000 and about Rs. 13,000 in cash prizes to the winners.

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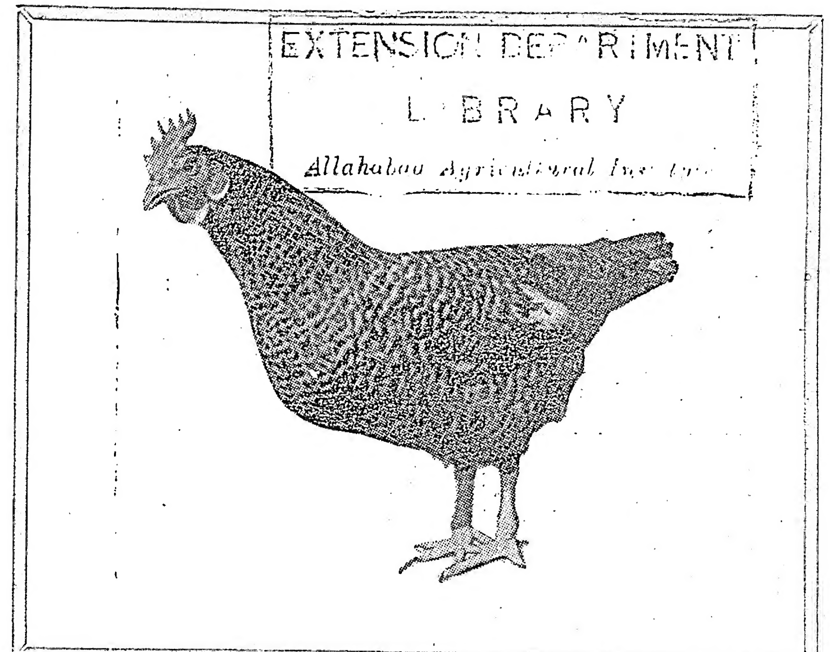
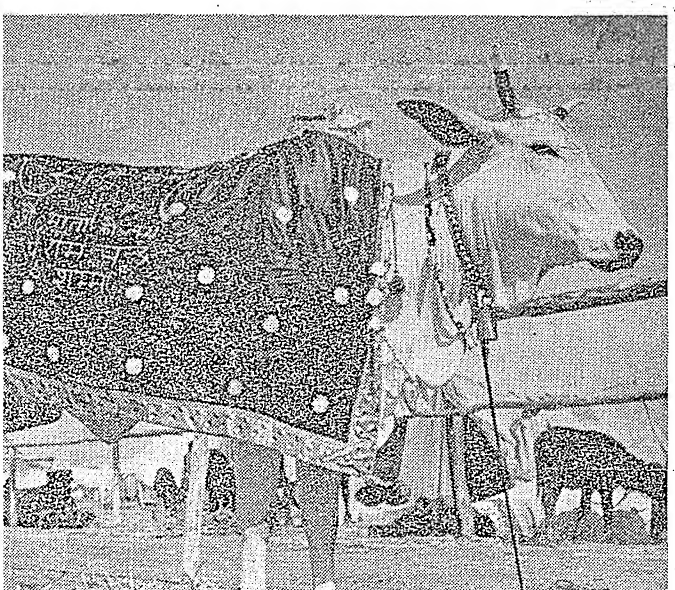


Best "desi" hen (aseel) at the show (owner Shri S. A. P. Prasad, Madras)



A decorated Hariana cow in the show

Gadi buck from Himachal Pradesh (owned by Shri Dharamsingh)

The best animal in the Show was a magnificent black and white mottled Deoni bull from Hyderabad with flowing lines. The proud owner of the animal, Mr. Tukaram of Godsur in Hyderabad, won five cups including the Marquess of Linlithgow's Challenge Cup for the best animal in the Show. He also got cash prizes totalling Rs. 3,100 of which Rs. 2,000 was given by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for breeding the best head of cattle in the country.

An 8-year-old Sahiwal cow from the Military Farm at Meerut annexed the Sir Datar Singh Challenge Cup for the highest milk-yield. She also annexed the Zal R. Kothavalla shield for the highest milk-yielding animal in the Show. She gave 43 lbs. and 4 ozs. of milk in 24 hours.

A Murrah she-buffalo from the Mechanised State Farm at Meerut won the Sir Hormasji Cawasji Dinshaw Challenge Cup for the highest milk-yeilding buffalo. She yielded 40 lbs. and 11 ozs. in 24 hours.

BEST COW

Gulzar, a Sahiwal cow, bred by Satguru Maharaj Pratap Singh of Sirsa (Punjab), was judged as the best cow in the Show. She was also adjudged as the best cow in the country and was awarded the Indian Council of Agricultural Research prize of Rs. 1,000. Maharaj Pratap Singh who is one of the largest cattle breeders in the country won 14 trophies in the Show.

The prize for the best buffalo bull in the Show was annexed by Mr. Amarsingh of Amritsar and that for the best buffalo cow by Mr. Hoshiar Singh of Delhi.

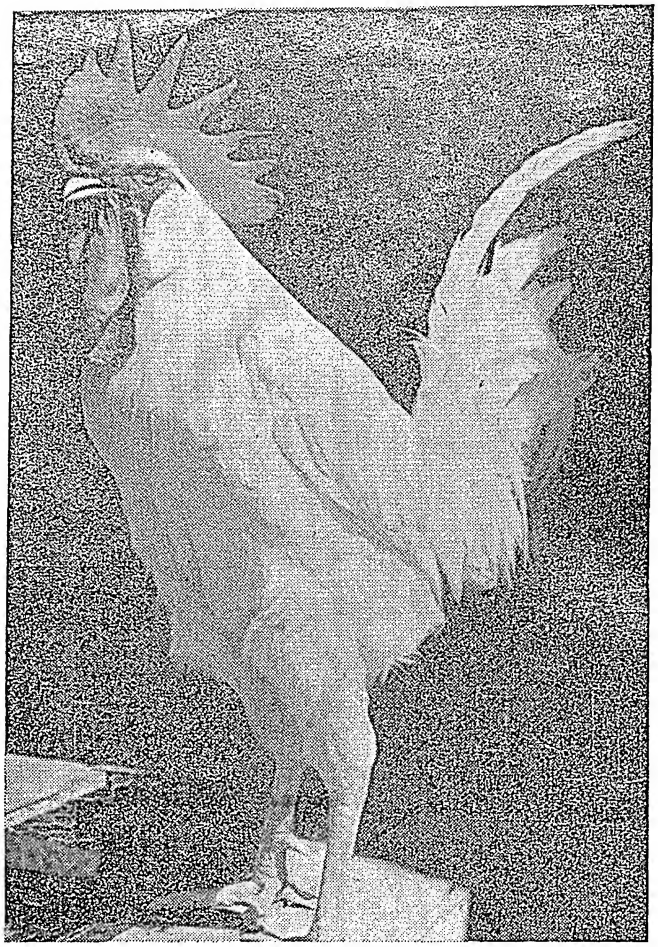
Distributing the prizes, Mr. K. M. Munshi said: "India's huge cattle population of 176 million cannot be developed unless people owning them take a vital interest in them. In Indian economy cattle and human beings are bound as an insoluble unit."

STRANGE PARADOXES

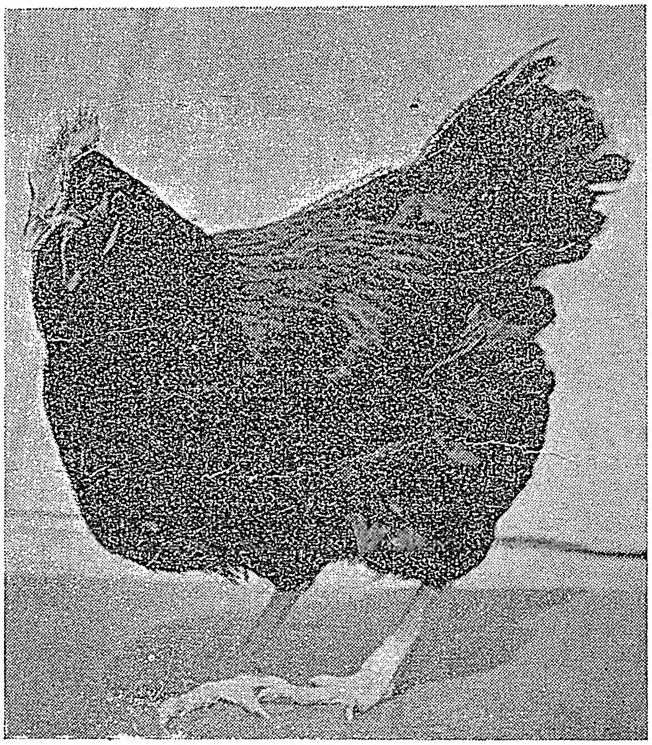
As in almost everything else, India presents strange paradoxes in the matter of her cattle wealth. Numerically, she possesses the largest number of cattle, almost one-fourth of the total cattle population of the world, yet there is a woeful shortage of cattle both for draught purposes and milk supply. Nowhere else is there so great a veneration for the cow as in India and nowhere else is the cow more neglected. Although everybody in India realises the value of milk, yet India's milk consumption is among the lowest in the world.

A MULTI-CRORE ASSET

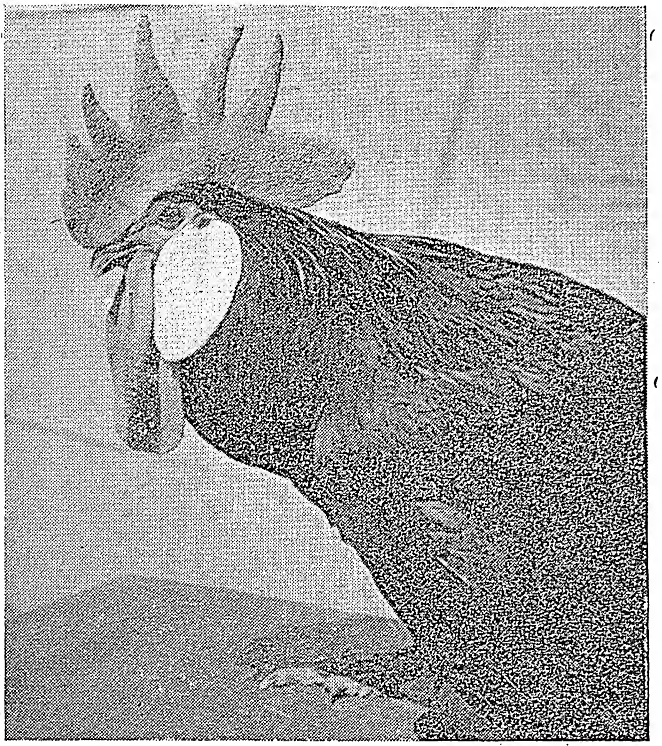
However, despite these paradoxes, the fact remains that cattle are a very important factor in India's economy. The bullocks supply power for tilling the land, for drawing water, for thrashing corn and for transport. The cow not only gives milk but is also the mother of the bullock. Cattle yield hides and manure. It is estimated that the value of hides and skins produced in India is about Rs. 40 crores. By providing transport for agricultural produce, it is estimated that cattle contribute approximately Rs. 161 crores, while by way of cattle labour for agriculture they contribute another Rs. 300 to 400 crores. The value of manure is estimated at about Rs. 270 crores. The latest estimate of the monetary value of Indian cattle is estimated at



A White Leghorn cock at the show



The best hen-Rhode Island Red group



Head study of a Black Minorcas cock at the show

Rs. 4,000 crores per annum. It is, therefore, not without significance that India has throughout ages worshipped the cow and that proper care of the cow is looked upon as a part of any constructive programme for the uplift of the people.

Since the attainment of Independence, the Government of India has been paying a very great deal of attention to the improvement of the cattle wealth of the country. Under the Five Year Plan, it is envisaged to produce about 60,000 pedigree stud bulls every year. Already about 100 Key Village centres are engaged in this task using all modern technique for this purpose.

CATTLE SHOWS IN THE PAST

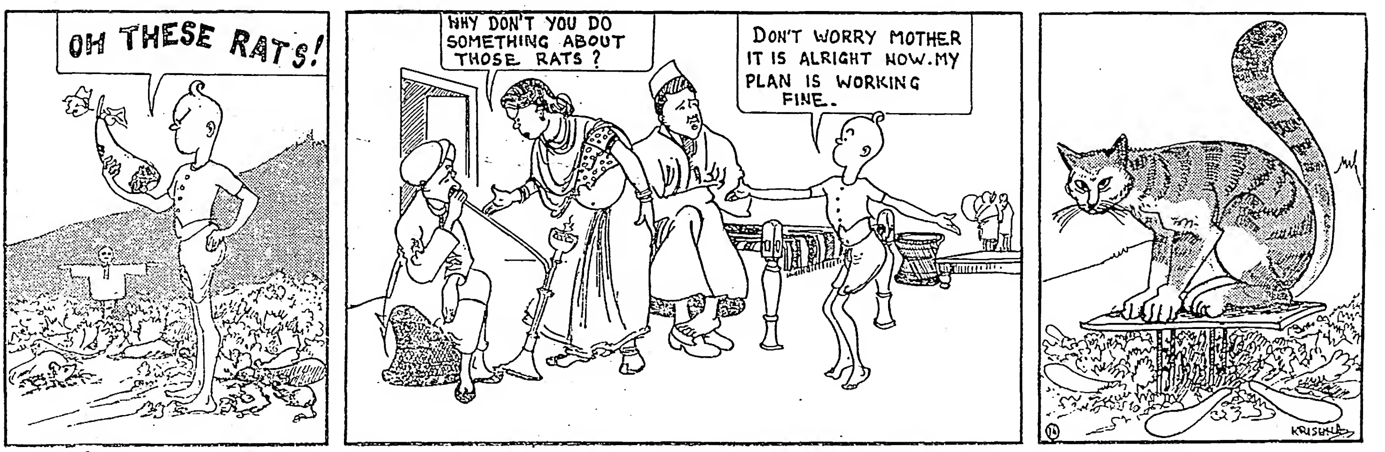
The All-India Cattle Show, by the specimens exhibited, gives an idea of the progress made in the improvement of the country's cattle breeds. The first Cattle Show was held in India in 1938. This was organised by the All-India Cattle Show Committee which was started in that year with the object of organising periodical shows in India and carrying on all activities connected therewith including the furtherance of cattle breeding and the improvement of stock. In his welcome speech on February 22, 1952, Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-President of the All-India Cattle Show Committee, said: 'The activities of the All-India Cattle Show Committee have gained a momentum which, if checked at this stage, would prove detrimental to the best interests of the cattle industry in the country.'

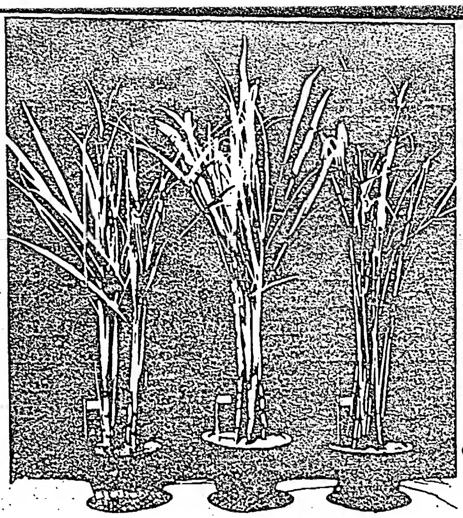
Cattle Shows are now universally recognised as the most important feature of cattle development programmes. It is an established fact that a breed is formed in a judging ring. The competitions held in various classes on an All-India basis create a healthy spirit of competition and induce breeders to produce better animals. They also afford unique opportunity to breeders not only from India but from other countries also to witness at a central place the choicest collection of the best-known breeds of the country. The aim of course is that the All-India Cattle Show should be closely linked up with the shows held in States so that winners in village shows should be exhibited in Tehsil or Taluk Shows, winners therefrom in District and State Shows, the ultimate winners competing at the All-India Cattle Show. The All-India Cattle Show is, therefore, aimed to be an apex of a number of cattle shows organised all over the country.

TANNAN OR TUNDU DISEASE OF WHEAT

(*Continued from page 14*)

into another vessel. The treatment should be done on the same day when the sowing is to be done and the seed sown after partial drying. This will not in any way adversely affect the germination of seed. One precaution is, however, very essential. The galls so collected should not be thrown near the cultivated areas, but should be burnt immediately to avoid them being a source of infection in the subsequent season.





1 2 3

1. *Co. 421*
2. *Thick (Like Mother)*
3. *Thin*
4. *Widely differing daughter plants derived from mother Co. 421 without the help of a father*

HOW BETTER CANES ARE BRED AT COIMBATORE

By

DR. T. S. RAGHAVAN,

Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore.

SUGAR can be manufactured from sugarcane, sugar beet, coconut, palmyra and date and certain other palms. Sugarcane and beet are however, the principal sources. The total production of sugar in the whole world is of the order of 34 million tons of which about 2/3rd is cane sugar. Sugar beet is confined principally to the temperate regions, especially of Europe. Sugarcane is spread over the tropics and sub-tropics of both eastern and western hemispheres.

In the breeding of better canes in Coimbatore, great emphasis has been laid on the utilisation of wild *spontaneum*. The production of the famous seedling, Co. 205, a direct cross between *officinarum* and *spontaneum*, opened up great possibilities as is now well known, in the establishment of a sound sugar industry in north India. Its hardiness and disease resistance have conferred on the hybrids a vigour which is almost unparalleled. However, the juice quality is somewhat inferior in the hybrids because of the poor juice quality of *spontaneum*. For improving the juice quality more of *officinarum* blood is introduced through further crossings with the 'noble' canes. With a view to utilising a wider range of genetic stocks, collection of *Spontaneums* from the different parts of the sub-continent are being made and by utilising these, it is hoped to introduce such desirable characters as are expected to withstand waterlogging, resistance to salinity and high winds and diseases and pests. Every year hundreds of thousands of seedlings are raised by a number of crosses amongst parental forms which are built up year after year. Because of the unpredictability of hybridisation results referred to above, the greater the number of crosses and wider the range of variation, the greater also are the chances of resulting forms with desired combinations. These hybrid seedlings which are raised in pans are transferred to the first ground nursery after the third month and from there to the second ground nursery after another three months and from the second ground nursery canes are selected on the basis of their vigour, sugar content, early or late maturing habit, etc. They are transferred to the one-row trial plot. Further selections from these are taken on to the final test plot where they undergo replicated trials. From the lakhs of seedlings that are raised through hybridisation, by the time they reach the final test plot, their number gets filtered down to less than a hundred and the time interval involved is about 3½ years. About 50 of these canes from the final test plots are finally selected and are raised to the status of Co. canes for distribution to the State testing stations for further trials. Data are collected in such a way as to throw light on the earliness or lateness of maturity, tonnage and sucrose. The best method is to grow early, mid and late in such a way as to spread the crushing season for as long a time as possible. Bombay is particularly interested in the late varieties because of the practice of *adsali* cultivation in those tracts. In the northern districts of the Madras State, the problem is cyclonic winds. We must breed a cane which is short and bushy. A cane like Co. 419 which is tall and brittle is liable to snap on account of these high velocity winds to which those parts are subjected very frequently. In breeding for their needs we have to keep in mind a short spreading type of parent which, even though they may not contain enough sugar may be selected to impart this desirable character to another parent having enough sucrose. Similarly for the north Indian tracts quick-growing and early maturing canes are needed. So the work of the sugarcane breeding at this Institute is conducted in such a way as to be adapted to the needs of the different tracts of the country. After these selected Co. canes reach the State testing stations, they are multiplied and tested for a further period. The idea of sending these selected canes all over India is to enable the different testing stations to select canes suited to their tracts; a universal cane to suit the widely differing conditions of the whole of India is almost an impossibility.

Java, Hawaii, Formosa, Cuba and West Indies had superior natural resources and were able to produce a large exportable surplus. The total world area under sugarcane is very nearly 12 million acres of which about a third is contributed by India. Sugarcane forms in India about 2 per cent of its total cultivated area of about 200 million acres. In India, Uttar Pradesh has the highest acreage having more than half the total for the whole country. Next comes Bihar. Madras has a tenth of Uttar Pradesh's acreage. But the total production of cane is very nearly one fourth of that of Uttar Pradesh. In the sub-tropical north the canes are thin and botanically come under the group *Saccharum Barberi*, while the canes of tropical India are thick and noble and belong to the species, *Saccharum offici-*

At Kunyamuthur—standing crop of Co. 419 which yielded over 90 tons per acre

narum. Nearly 80 per cent of the cane area in India is sub-tropical in its distribution. The average yield of canes for the whole country works out to only about 14 tons and consequently the total production of sugar in India is not commensurate with its area. For if that were so we should produce more than a third of the world sugar, i.e. very nearly 8 million tons. But the production in India in terms of *gur* is of the order of less than 5 million tons. Of this total, sugar forms but a million tons. A fact worth remembering in this connection is that out of an approximate total output of 53 million tons of canes only 22 per cent find their way into factories, 55 per cent are used for *gur* manufacture. The rest are used for planting, chewing, Khandsari, etc. The thin north Indian canes which are mainly responsible for this low yield of canes and consequently of sugar, are not to blame either, because situated as they are in the sub-tropical belt of the country, their growth period is limited to the interval between the summer and the winter. When grown under proper conditions they have given yields of over 70 tons.

'Noble' canes thrive better in the tropics, because of the absence of extremes of temperature and they grow almost throughout the year. Hence their higher yield. In a prize competition organised by the Deccan Sugar Technologists' Association, a record yield of 122.4 tons was obtained with Co. 419 which is the variety *par excellence* for tropical India. This is only a little short of the world record of 129.1 tons in Mexico and 126.8 tons in Hawaii. At Kuniyamuthur, very near Coimbatore, a yield of over 90 tons has been obtained with the same variety.

The aim of the sugarcane breeder is to increase the production of sugar by improving the quality of the canes grown in this country. Hybridisation is the tool which has been in the hands of the plant breeder from time immemorial, the object being to combine the desirable characters of the two parents that are crossed. One has to remember that each plant or animal is, as it were, a dual structure made up of both maternal and paternal material brought together during fertilisation. Therefore a complete reshuffling of parental characters must be expected in a sexually derived progeny. Consequently the offspring resulting from the union of sexual cells will show a wide range of variations. In individuals coming into being from the same parent, i.e. selfed progeny, these variations are not so marked and in cases in which this self-fertilisation is the rule, the resulting progeny is almost uniform. But in a plant like sugarcane in which cross fertilisation is the rule, one may expect to find marked differences amongst the individuals obtained by the sexual process. If it were like any other plant, the breeding of sugarcane will follow the usual procedure, namely crossing of individuals possessing the characters whose combination we want and repeated selection through several generations until we get a pure line breeding true to a particular combination of characters. This, however, is impossible in sugarcane because of various factors; the chief of these is that in the evolution of the sugarcane two or more ancestral forms have contributed. So in sugarcane hybrids the parental characters are found distributed in an unpredictable manner. But because of vegetative propagation any suitable form that comes into being through hybridisation can at once be fixed and multiplied. This, however, would not be possible if the plant is propagated only through seeds. Several sugarcane varieties have no pollen of their own mainly because the sacs containing the pollen grains do not open at all. From many such forms daughter individuals are known to arise even though we exclude foreign pollen. It means that the daughter plant has come into being from the unfertilised egg. The mechanism of this parthenogenetic development is so peculiar in sugarcane that such derivatives show variations amongst themselves and are not uniform as they should be. The result of all this is that there is a large element of chance so far as hybridisation work in sugarcane is concerned. The characters are found distributed in an unpredictable manner in the progeny of a cross making it almost impossible to resynthesise a particular combination of characters. For instance Co. 419 which is a cross between POJ. 2878 × Co. 290 cannot be got back again by repeating the cross. The chances are very remote.

The farmers learn the way of washing the fibre clean

GLOSS OF THE GOLDEN FIBRE

By
A. K. MUKHERJEE,
Publicity Officer, Indian
Central Jute Committee.

JUTE is aptly called the 'Golden Fibre' as much for the 'gold' it fetches to the grower as for the glittering gloss of the fibre itself. Indeed, the latter determines to a large extent the preference of the foreign markets for this comparatively cheap Indian packing material. From the green bark of the plant to the bright flowing jute fibre is, however, a transformation that involves several important stages which by themselves determine to a large extent the colour of the fibre. Genetically, the two principal varieties of the Corchorus stock, *Corchorus capsularis* and *Corchorus olitorius*, have two distinct but broad colour specifications. The fibre from the first, *Corchorus capsularis*, has the trade name 'white jute' while that of the latter, *Corchorus olitorius*, is commonly known as 'red jute'. The exact colour of the fibre, within the limits of these broad classifications, is, however determined by the actual process of, and the conditions in which, the bark is extracted from the stock and converted into fibre. The so-called white jute, for instance, may vary in colour from white to cream or to dark grey and the red jute from golden yellow to slaty brown, red or dark grey. The exact shade of the colour is largely dependent on the process of retting.

A MAJOR PROBLEM

Retting is one of the major problems that cropped up in our jute economy as a result of partition. East Bengal is a land of rivers and canals that flow into the remotest interior of the region. Nature has thus provided this luxuriant jute belt of the world with adequate facilities for retting. Not only that. The clear water of the Brahamaputra and its tributaries that irrigate this region, offer the most suitable medium of retting which imparts to the fibre its natural colour. In contrast, the waters of the Ganges and its tributaries, particularly in their lower reaches, are muddy, and retting in this turbid water makes the colour of the fibre grey or yellowish brown. Even this muddy flowing water is not available in the interior regions of West Bengal or North Bengal, where the principal retting media are stagnant pools which further deteriorate the colour of the fibre.

Jute growers are taking a lesson on retting. They are being instructed to separate bark from jute stock.

With the jute self-sufficiency drive nearing its target from year to year, the problem of retting is becoming acute in the Indian Union. In the last four years the jute yield of the Indian Union has increased by more than 200 per cent creating the tremendous problem of extracting the fibre in a way that will retain its natural gloss and thus help upkeep the foreigner's preference for its products. In view of the natural handicaps, such as lack of riverine flooding of pools and tanks in the interior of the jute areas of the Indian Union, the question of retting presents almost a baffling problem for the jute grower.

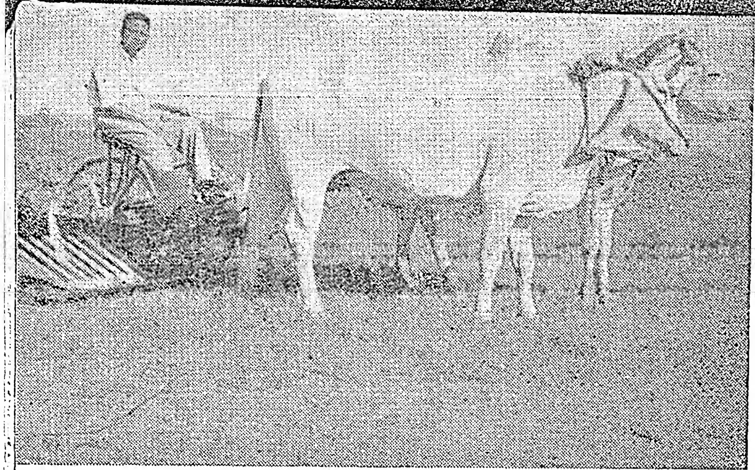
Retting in natural water has received serious attention of the Central as well as the State Governments. Special grants were allocated to finance excavation of retting tanks and the local authorities were urged upon to make available to the jute grower road-side pools and tanks and all possible rural water storages not otherwise useful. Even so, the problem remains as serious as before.

Simultaneously with the measures to extend the natural retting facilities, investigation has been conducted to find out whether by the use of suitable chemicals in the retting tanks, the period of steeping may be reduced so that each retting tank may be used for the purpose more than once. Incidentally, the chemical changes in the retting tank's water were kept constantly under review, so that any deficiency due to the process of retting might be made good at short notice. Experiments were conducted at the Jute Agricultural Research Institute of the Indian Central Jute Committee with (*i*) water from Hooghly as medium; (*ii*) tap water as medium and (*iii*) retting water obtained from Chinsurah Farm as medium. A variety of chemicals was used. The investigation still continues. Meanwhile, it has been observed that the addition of bone dust to water has invariably lowered the duration of retting in all cases to the maximum of 30 per cent or so of controls.

Biochemical investigations of the process involved in the retting of jute are being conducted under the auspices of the Committee. Subject to further verification, these investigations have shown that the application of the active culture obtained from the decomposing fruits of Putranjiba Roxburghii (wall) has important effects on the retting process. The feasibility of utilising this culture in the indigenous process of retting jute is being studied.

CHEMICAL RETTING

The question of chemical retting of the jute fibre has not been left out of consideration. The Technological Research Laboratories of the I. C. J. C. have as a result of small scale experiments found that "of the various chemicals tried, ammonium oxalate, sodium fluoride and sodium silicate were most suitable for the purpose". "The fibre received from chemical retting was tested and compared with a similar fibre obtained by ordinary retting from similar plants grown on the same plot. There was no remarkable difference, however, though the chemically retted fibre was somewhat stronger. Both were very uniform and free from bark".



A comfortable harvester for the cowpeas

The reaper does a go.d job

COWPEA AND ITS PLACE IN AGRICULTURE

By Y. C. GUPTA,
Agricultural Officer, Cattle-Cum-Dairy
Farm, Karnal, Punjab.

COWPEA can be put to various uses in the field of agriculture. Primarily, it is given to cattle as green fodder and the seed extract at harvest—grain and green pods—is found fit for human consumption. The secondary uses to which it is put are (*a*) as a green manure crop (*b*) a substitute for grain in cattle feed.

COWPEA AS GREEN FODDER

Cattle relish the cowpea as green fodder in Kharif as they do berseem during Rabi. The crop is harvested for fodder when the flowers first appear and the plants are green and succulent. It is sown either singly or along with sorghum or maize. The advantage of this mixture crop is that the yield is increased and soil fertility is maintained. The seeds are scattered in a field that has been given 2-3 ploughings. Ten to fifteen seers are showered per acre, the yield being 150-200 md. of green fodder.

Cowpea has beaten all other Kharif fodder crops in increasing milk production of the milch herd. When administered along with maize, it achieves amazing results. It can cover the shortage of fodder experienced during the months of April, May and December. For, on conversion to silage, the mixture crop composed of cowpea and maize or sorghum, endures without spoilage for about ten years. To obtain silage the green material is chopped and ensiled. Six weeks later it is ready for use.

RAISING COWPEA

When the crop is sown with the purpose of obtaining seed, it is arranged in lines 2½ ft. apart. During the early stages 2-3 bullock hoeings are given. The seed rate is less than that for fodder, being 5-8 sr. per acre.

The pods begin to ripen four months after sowing. A few take longer than the others and hence several pickings have to be made. If all are picked at the same time the pods ripening first shed their grain in the field. It should be seen to that the soil has enough moisture in the early stages of flowering and pod formation. On sowing, too, 4-5 irrigations are necessary if the monsoon is late. Ideal soil is clayey black and red loams, light, sandy soil and alluvial plains. Heavy, clayey soil and water-logged areas do not bear good crop. It is sown during the months of June and July and people in different parts of India have styled it differently—*lobia, ravan, barbatti, chavali, babbarlu.*

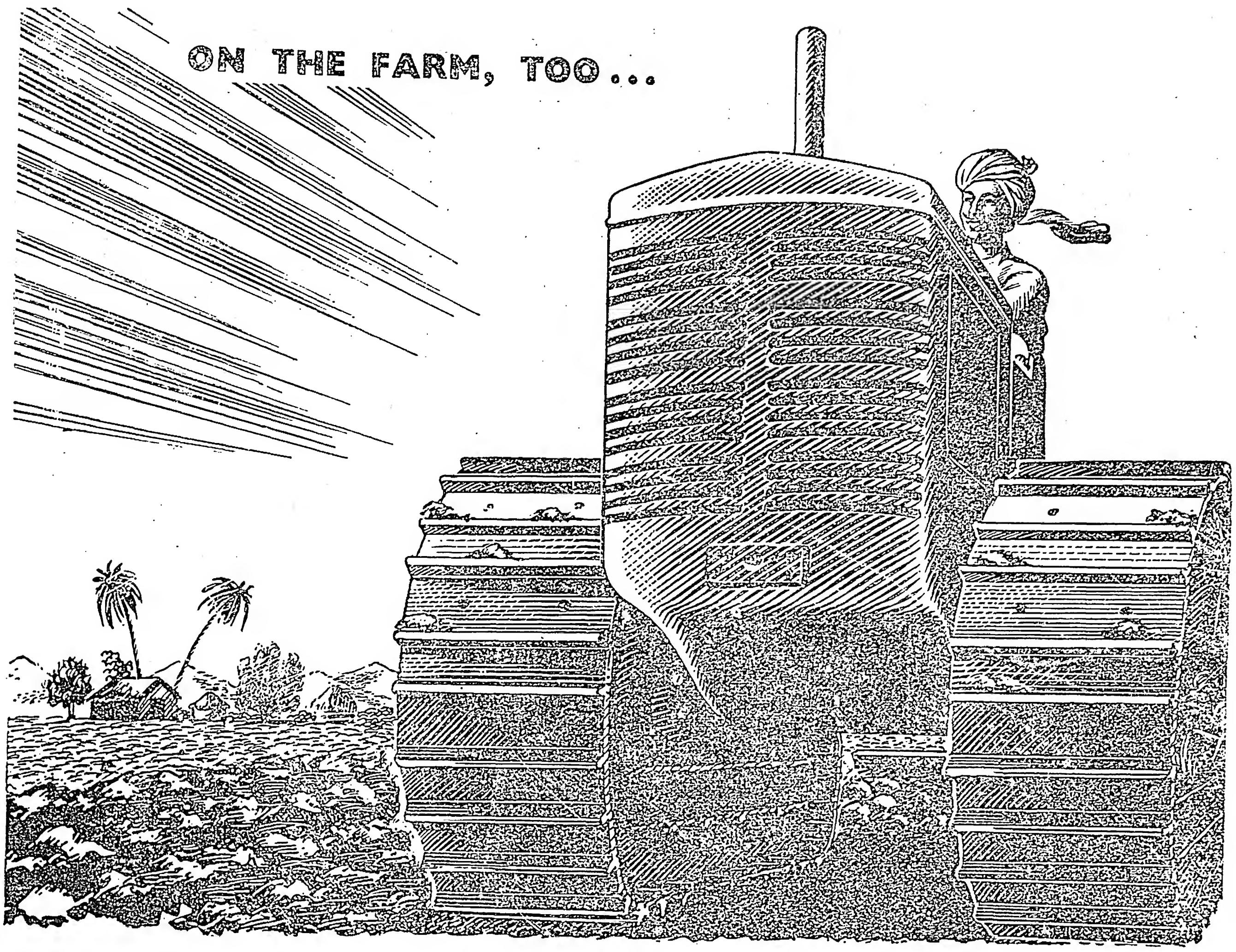
A reaper may be used for harvesting. When the reaper moves the cutting bar works in between the fingers and cuts all the crop lodged in the space between them. The harvested material finds its way on to the attached platform and is periodically pushed, with the help of a bamboo, on to the ground behind where it accumulates in heaps.

Another view of how a reaper works on cowpeas

THRESHING THE HARVEST

The harvest is carted to a *pukka* floor and threshed. This is not done on the field, for the leaves will

(*Continued on page 27*)


ON THE FARM, TOO...

CULTIVATION OF PAPAYA

By JADO NATH, Farm Manager, Sindri Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.

THIS plant and its fruits are commonly known as Papita in this country. The fruits are very popular among all classes of people.

The cultivation of Papaya was begun with the starting of an Agricultural farm at Sindri. Because of its early fruiting and the heavy yielding, the demand for both the fruits and plants increased. In a small 12-acre Agricultural Farm at Sindri, mainly meant for growing vegetables to supplement the demands of the employees of the factory, an experiment was made with the plantation of one hundred papaya plants to know whether it could flourish in this arid and sub-mountaineous tract. Growth in the first year was quite favourable and on maturity of fruits it was concluded that the cultivation of this useful plant could be undertaken with advantage. Its cultivation was therefore started on intensive scale.

HABIT

It is a beautiful shrub rather than a tree usually on a single straight stem with palm like leaves at the top, which are distributed uniformly. It requires a moderately rich well drained soil and is very sensitive to water-logging. It cannot be grown successfully on hills beyond an elevation of 4,000 feet above sea level. Its growth is also adversely affected by frost. Severe hot weather and heavy rainfall are both detrimental to its growth. Strong hot wind is also harmful. It would be advisable to grow some kind of wind break crop around a papaya orchard, as the stem is usually weak and fibrous. The plants in the kitchen gardens may also be put into such position as to derive maximum natural protection against strong winds. In general a temperature of near about 60°F. in winter and 100°F. in summer is helpful to its growth. It can grow to a height of 10-20 ft., but the smaller the height, the better it is as taller plants are more susceptible to strong winds.

TYPES

It has two main types of plants.

(1) *The male :* These produce long hanging clusters of white or yellowish white flowers, which usually do not bear fruits and should be removed as soon as found.

(2) *The female :* These produce long yellow flowers with very short stalks. These can be easily recognised by a globular ovary in the centre. As the female flowers do not usually set fruits without pollination, it is essential to keep one male plant for every 25-30 female plants.

VARIETIES

There are no fixed varieties of papaya. However for convenience the following varieties have been named and are commonly found : (*i*) RANCHI (*ii*) WASHINGTON and (*iii*) CEYLON.

SOWING

Papaya plants can be propagated by cuttings and in arching, but the method of sowing seeds in nursery has been found to be the best. The seeds may be collected from selected fruits which should be well formed, fair sized, sweet and borne on healthy trees. The seeds may preferably be selected from longish fruits. The seeds are sown in nursery in the month of March and germinate in 10-12 days. The seeds sown may either be fresh or dried and kept in well corked bottles. As soon as seeds germinate, they may be exposed to morning sunshine and covered in the later part of the day. The beds made for this purpose may be well raised so as to avoid water-logging. If sown in seed boxes, these also may be well drained. The seeds may be sown at least 2 inches apart and lightly covered with fine earth. The seed beds may be kept somewhat moist and regularly watered with a fine hose. The seedlings from these beds may be transferred to bigger-sized beds when the third leaf appears ; at this stage the plants may be placed one foot apart. These beds should also be well prepared with a good amount of farm-yard manure. The plants would be ready for transplantation into their permanent quarters at the commencement of rains.

DIGGING OF PITS

The pits may be of 3 ft. × 3 ft. × 3 ft. dimensions and 8-10 feet apart. These may be filled up with good soil mixed with well-rotted cowdung. Usually 2-3 baskets of manure are added to each pit, in addition to one pound of oilseed cake and a handful of lime. These constituents may be thoroughly mixed before transplantation. As the papayas are transplanted in the month of July, the process of digging of pits should be completed in the month of May, so that the manure added may be well-mixed with the soil before transplantation.

TRANSPLANTATION

While transplanting care should be taken not to injure the roots. The soil ball surrounding the roots should be big enough so that the roots are not exposed. The seedlings with the ball of soil may be gently pressed with the soil from the pit while transplanting so as to bring both the soils into intimate contact with each other. The pits should be moist at this time and not too wet.

WATERING

The amount of water to be added to the plants depends on the weather conditions and the age of the plants. In general the pits should be kept in a moist condition. In summer the plants naturally require greater amount of moisture. In case of orchards number of irrigations depends upon weather conditions. In the case of small kitchen gardens it is preferable to add two buckets of water during a day, preferably either in the early morning or in the afternoon. Over-watering also results in shedding of flowers and should be avoided.

To check the growth of weeds, conserve moisture and aerate the soil. It is necessary to hoe the plants as often as possible. The process may be discontinued during the formation of flowers.

Manure may be added to the plants twice a year once in the month of June and then in October at the rate of one basket of well-rotted cow-

dung per plant. It may be advantageously supplemented with one-half pound of oilseed cake and one-quarter pound ammonium sulphate. The manure may be spread over the base of the plant and then thoroughly mixed with the top 4-6 inches of soil.

LIFE

The average life of a papaya tree is about 8 years and in favourable conditions it may go upto 10 years. The first three years are the most productive period and thereafter productivity goes on declining every year. The sweetness of the fruit is also reduced. Hence when grown on commercial scale the orchard may be renewed after every three years. In case of kitchen garden also, this principle may be kept in view. The old trees may be renewed in rotation so that a continuous crop is available. The tree usually comes into bearing after a year's growth. The average yield of a good healthy tree is in the neighbourhood of 15-20 fruits, weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 seers each, although at Sindri with the method of cultivation mentioned above we frequently had fruits weighing about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 seers each, a total yield of one maund per plant in a year.

In order to obtain fruits of good quality and uniform size it is advisable to thin out the fruits in the early stage. It is also recommended to allow at the most 15-18 fruits on each plant.

It is not advisable to pluck fruits in an unripe condition and then allow them to ripen in storage. This results in the loss of flavour and taste. The right time for the fruits to be plucked is when it has just developed some yellow spots. It may then be plucked carefully with hand and then stored in a dry place covered in a gunny bag or straw. It is recommended to keep the fruits in a single layer.

If carefully packed the fruit can stand a long journey and remain fresh for a number of days. We have been successfully despatching consignments to Delhi and Amritsar and have found the fruits in good condition at the destination. Care may be taken in selection of fruits to be despatched out. These fruits should have just developed yellow spots on the skin. Quite unripe fruits should not be chosen for this purpose. The degree of ripeness depends upon the length of journey. Ordinary bamboos or cane baskets are useful for packing purposes. A bedding of straw may be spread within the basket and also in between the layers of fruits. The layers of fruits should not be more than three in a basket. The large sized fruits may be placed in the lowest layer and the smaller sized and lighter on the upper layers. The basket may be covered with a gunny and stitched.

DISEASES OF PAPAYA

1. *Stem rot:* The disease occurs on account of excessive watering, and causes the stem to rot and decay. It can be remedied by the application of 4-5% of lysol solution.

2. *Leaf rot:* The leaves and the plants take on a curved shape and droop down. This is a contagious disease and should be immediately attended to. The best remedy lies in removal of affected plants and burning them away.

3. *Fruit fall:* In ill-drained and unhealthy conditions, rooting of stem and leaves is generally seen, which subsequently results in fall of fruits and flowers. In these circumstances proper drainage is the only cheapest remedy. In some cases spraying with Burgandi mixture is recommended.

COWPEA AND ITS PLACE IN AGRICULTURE

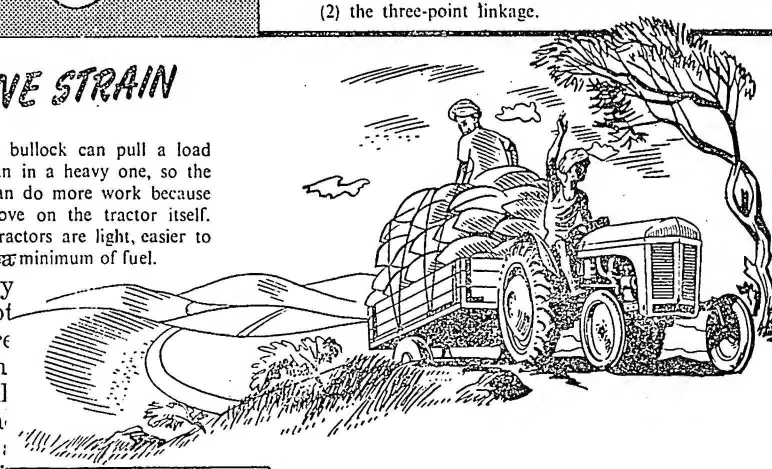
(*Continued from page 24*)

dry and scatter. On the *pukka*, nothing is wasted. The method of threshing is to spread the material and give it a few turnings so as to render it dry. There is danger of the harvest becoming black and mouldy if any moisture is left over in the stems or leaves. It is very necessary, therefore, that all of the cowpea be entirely dry and free from moisture before storing. In the early hours of the morning, to prevent further shedding, the cowpea hay is carted and stored in dry sheds. It is preserved from rains and other damaging elements until it is needed.

Hence, the cowpea can go a long way in alleviating situations caused by fodder shortage. When preserved in the form of silage and hay it will help mitigate the difficulties of the Indian farmer in time of need.

1724

n elevation of 4,000 feet above sea



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WOMEN AND  CHILDREN'S PAGE

FIRST AID AT HOME

Children often develop minor complaints which, though not serious, should be recognized and dealt with properly. Although it is better to call a doctor when in doubt of the seriousness of a case, it is still better to be able to recognize and have a little knowledge of elementary ailments.

Choking: One of the most common and yet most alarming of these, is choking. Children, especially the very young, love to put things in their mouths, and from there it is only a short step to the windpipe and to obstructing the passage of air to the lungs. Or the cause may be a piece of food that has gone down the wrong way. But whatever it is, take measures immediately. A very young child may be lifted by the toes and held upside down for a few seconds. An older child should have his head bent down between his knees, and be struck on the back between the shoulders, smartly but not too violently. If these methods fail to work, put two fingers down the child's throat and try to dislodge the object. This will at least force the child to vomit and cough, which will be very likely to remove the obstruction. If this still fails to work, send for a doctor immediately.

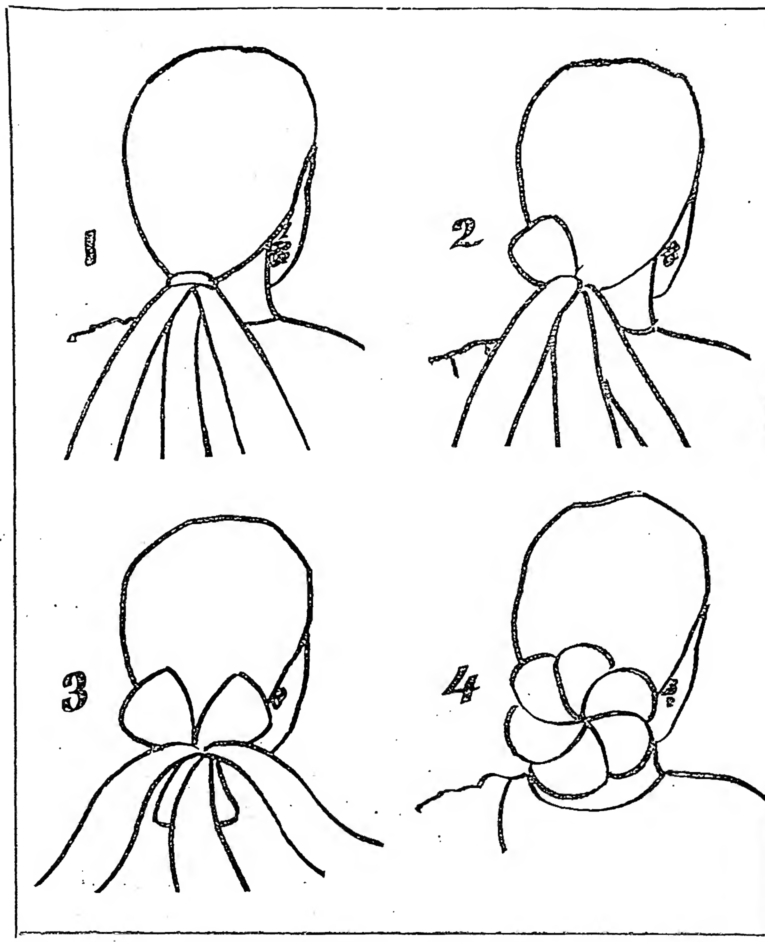
Nose Bleeds: These occur mostly in teen-age children and may be caused by a slight blow or irritation of the nose.

Loosen any tight clothing about the neck and chest and make the child sit down before an open window where he can breathe in clean, fresh air. His head must be thrown back as far as possible and he must breathe through his mouth. By no means let him bend over a basin, or blow his nose.

This is usually enough to stop bleeding, but in severe cases apply a cloth dipped in cold water (as cold as possible) to the bridge of the nose and back of the neck.

Ear-ache: This is a condition that should be treated with much greater seriousness than it usually is. Ear-ache is one of the aches for which there is always a definite reason, and if the ache is strong and persistent, a doctor should certainly be called in. These aches often start during or after an infectious fever such as measles or influenza, or during a cold and sore throat. Persistent ear-aches of this sort could lead to deafness later in life, so it is always better to overestimate the seriousness of an ear-ache than to ignore it.

In very small children, ear-aches may be caused by teething. This is just part of the pain and stops when teething does. Often children push small things into their ears, which get stuck there and cause much pain. When this happens, call for a doctor immediately so that he can get it out with his special instruments. On no account whatever, try to get it out yourself with a match stick or a hairpin. It is very dangerous to push any object, sharp or blunt, into the delicate interior of the ear. Inside, the ear is very soft and sensitive, and untold damage can be done when an inexperienced person tries to dislodge an object that has become caught in the passage of the ear. Call for a doctor immediately and to relieve the pain, a few drops of warm oil can be dropped in the ear, and a simple pain-deadening tablet may be swallowed by the child.



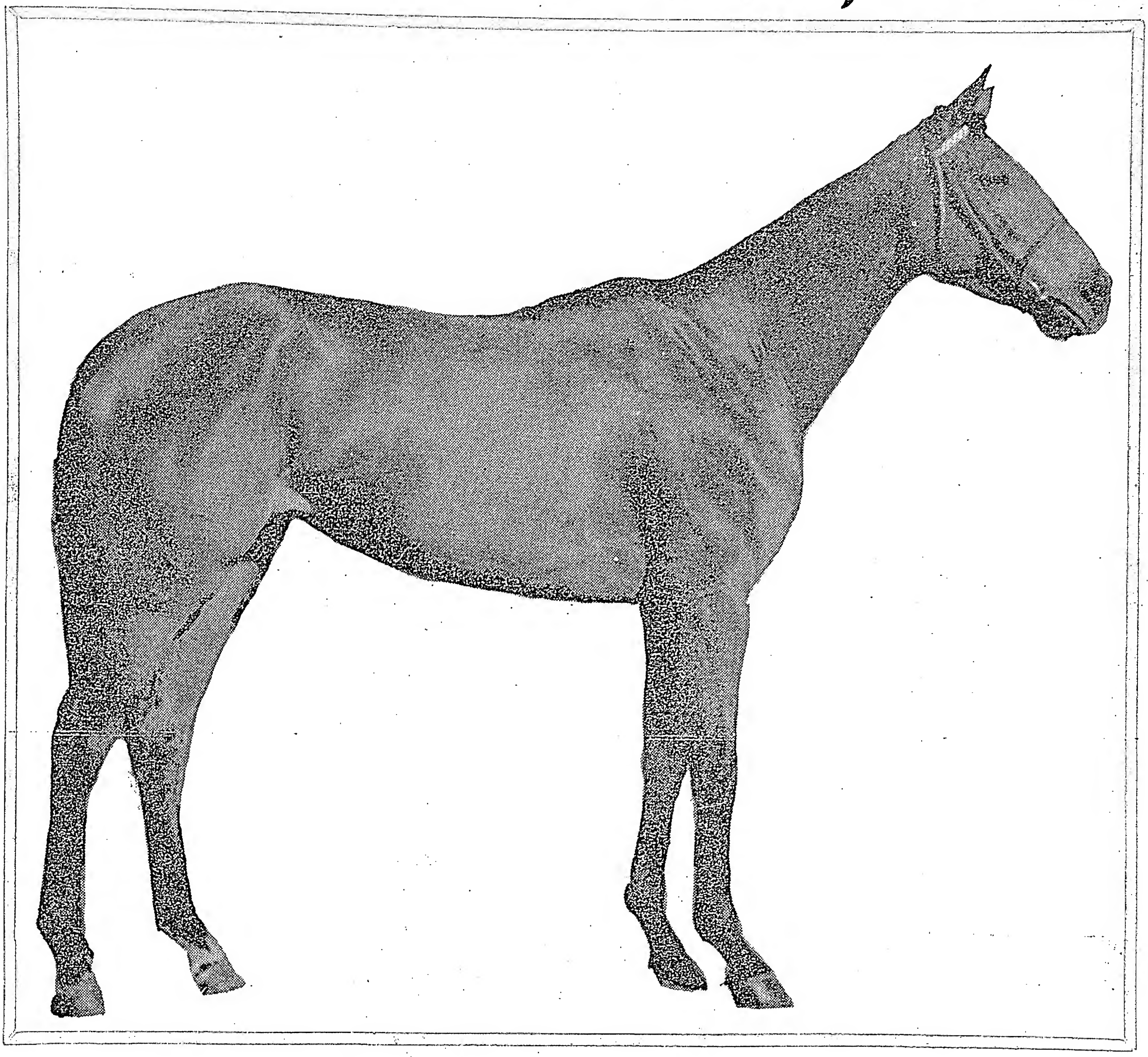
AN ATTRACTIVE AJANTA HAIRSTYLE

Wear this pretty hairstyle at a special occasion.

1. Tie your hair securely at the back with a ribbon and divide it into three strands, which must be brushed out straight.
2. Take the first strand and make a loop close to the head in the position shown in the sketch. Secure with pins.
3. Form loops with the other two strands, as shown, with the ends loose.
4. Now take the remaining part of the first strand and pass it through the second loop and around to the back. In the same way pass the second strand through the third loop and the third strand the first loop. Adjust the pins securely.

Decorate with "jari" beads and threads, or with fresh flowers.

THE BHOPAL STUD FARM, BHOPAL



Maharaj Kumari bred by Nawabzada Yemin-ul-Mulk Rashiduzzafar Khan, Stud Farm Bhopal, was awarded I. C. A. R. Pirze of Rs. 2000/- for the best horse in the country—1951-52

The Bhopal Stud in its present shape and form was started in 1941 by Col. Yemin-ul-Mulk Nawabzada Rashiduzzafar Khan. The climate and soil conditions are conducive to the establishment of a stud farm at Bhopal.

In this brief period of 11 years, Bhopal Stud can boast of a record almost unique in the annals of horse-breeding industry in India.

Home of the great Chakori, Doorani, Fitna, Rajdoot, Asoka, Neola, Assault, Maharaj Kumari, Roman Dancer, and many others, Bhopal Stud is naturally proud that many of the winners of the Indian Classics were bred at their Farm, of whom Maharaj Kumari has been declared the best Indian 4-year-old of 1952.

Bhopal Stud is also busy conducting experiments on breeding from Indian bred Stallions and mares and hopes to establish in due course that the best horses could be produced from thoroughbred Indian sires and dams.

It may be noted that 'MAHARAJ KUMARI', the best 4-year-old of the year is the daughter of an Indian mare 'Hi-Ho'. 'FANCY GLEN' is another Indian mare that has produced outstanding horses at the Bhopal Stud.

GREEN MANURING OF BETTER CROPS

(Continued from page 9)

DOES GREEN MANURING PAY?

Whether increased production through green manuring pays for the loss of one crop season is the main point on which farmers want to be satisfied. The subject has attracted the attention of workers for a long time in many States of India. They think it a mistake not to take into account the residual carry-over of fertility for the benefit of subsequent crops in a rotation. The practice has definitely proved beneficial in the Punjab, U. P., Deccan, Bombay and other States. It has been found economically sound for sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Recently, it has been reported from U. P. that after taking grain from 'mung' type 1 the crop could successfully be green manured. There is, therefore no loss of a season. Similarly in growing 'berseem' there is no loss either.

LIMITATIONS

The practice of green manuring is rendered difficult by climatic, technical and economic causes. Green manure crops need a quick and certain start during the short period of their growth. Lack of moisture both during growth and after burial, is harmful. An adequate supply of moisture can be ensured either by growing in areas of well distributed rainfall of 25 inches and above, or through irrigation.

The technical difficulties involved in the art of green manuring are largely due to lack of full knowledge about the stage and best method of ploughing-in of green-manure crop, as well as the 'time' for sowing the subsequent crop. Non-availability of seed of a certain promising variety is sometimes responsible for restricting the practice in a locality.

The economics of green manuring from the point of view of small cultivator will largely depend upon the possibility of producing the green-manure crop without disturbance to those main crops which support the finances of the cultivator.

THE MAN OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 6)

They should tour the villages extensively and explain to each and every cultivator the latest and better methods of farming. The Indian cultivator wants higher yields but he has few means to develop and practically no education to plan his schemes. Literacy campaign should be taken up by the Government on a national basis and the progressive farmers should be persuaded to take more interest in their neighbours. Raja is an excellent photographer himself and believes that only visual aids like films, slides, film strips, photographic exhibitions and posters can help the illiterate cultivator in broadening his mental and agricultural outlook. Practical demonstration on the field in almost every locality will have far-reaching effects. He is opposed to the Government Takavi system as it is today. He suggests that the rate of interest should not be more than $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ so that the farmer may not be burdened to a very great extent. He also suggests that the farmers should take up bee-keeping, poultry, vegetable farming and dairying according to their means and circumstances to supplement their agricultural income.

This is the story of a man who in 1946 could not imagine that he would have to leave the metropolis and live away from a society of which he had become a part and parcel but having been forced to take up farming is doing an excellent job of it.

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AN ADULT LITERACY NIGHT CLASS AT FATEHPUR VILLAGE (ETAWAH PROJECT)

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INDIAN FARMING

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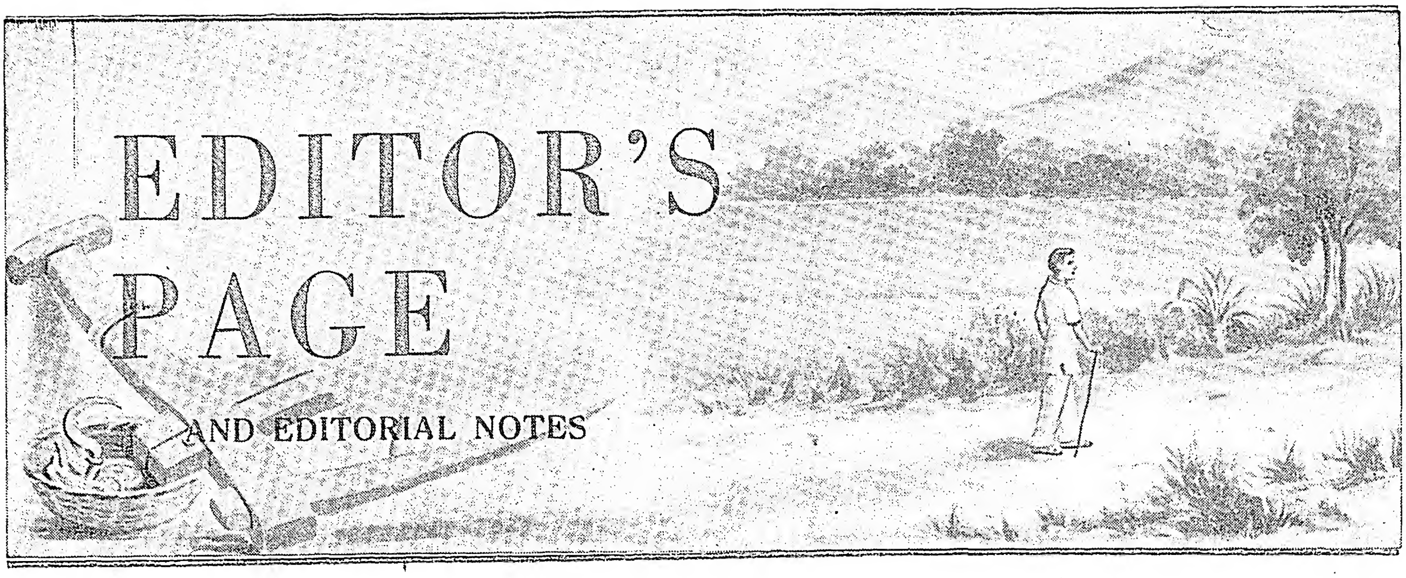


A stirring appeal by the Prime Minister made early in June once again spotlighted the role of crop competitions in getting the cultivator more interested in attempting to increase his yield. As has already been admitted prize winning performances would be difficult of repetition on a large scale but the impact of their achievement is bound to be great and it is quite on the cards that this would lead to greater attempts on the part of neighbouring cultivators to try and improve the average yield. Example of one of the village, taluk or district farmers winning a prize is sure to give an impetus to many more farmers in the area to at least try and see that their champion is not let down. In the ultimate analysis an allround desire, to try out new methods and show more enthusiasm for improved techniques, will sweep over the area. If properly backed up by constant efforts, to make it easier for the farmer to understand how exactly he could set about being a champion himself without stretching his slender means, crop competitions will play a great part in not only stepping up India's food production but in giving more life to our land and more interest in life to the farmer.

Our experience of the past two years shows that every year more and more farmers are participating in the event and results go to show that with proper treatment land could be made to yield much more than it does today. Obviously, a specially prepared competition plot is very heavily manured and has all the care lavished upon it. This care cannot be commonly lavished but attempts can be made to see that best possible advantage is taken of available means *without overworking the land*. This would automatically mean that proper information must be made available as also supplies of essentials made easily obtainable. People have to be made competition minded by constantly plugging at the theme. Maximum advantage has to be derived from the results accruing due to competitions and these are to be very widely broadcast through all available media.

FARMERS' WEATHER BULLETIN

Although it is not possible to say quantitatively how far the activities of the Meteorological Department had helped the agricultural population in their efforts to produce more food, there were several ways, in which the Department gave assistance to the farmer, both in respect of their day-to-day work as also in bringing about an improvement in yield as a long-term measure, according to information made available recently. As an example of the former, the Department issued a Farmers' Weather Bulletin daily giving a forecast of weather conditions with special reference to crops. The long-term measure comprised investigations into the relationship between weather and crop yields. This was expected to give information which would be of help in improving agricultural methods.

As regards the machinery by which weather forecast reports reached the agriculturists living in remote villages, it appears that the Farmers' Weather Bulletin was broadcast by all stations of All India Radio in the respective regional languages in their rural programmes. They were also supplied free to such newspapers as agreed to publish them regularly. Further dissemination of the information to farmers depended on the organisation and facilities available in the rural areas.

This was the responsibility of the State Governments and the matter had been brought to their notice by the Department. Thus once again the effective distribution of such important data calls for effective organisation at State, District, Taluka and Village level.

"THE MAN OF THE MONTH"

The May issue of the Indian Farming carried a story about Krishna Iyengar of Mysore State. He now writes in to say that the author has not quite followed his story and that a number of errors have crept into the narrative. Narsinha Iyengar being the second of his only two sons works on this farm which was given as an *inam* to an army officer whose descendants later sold it to the ancestors of the present owners. Farmer Iyengar states that the first ratoon crop is the best and that he introduced in his state C0.419 variety which is draught-resistant and has taken his yield to as high as 40 tons and over per acre. He pointed out that his decision to collect water in big ponds and pump it again on to his fields has resulted in the saving of 50 per cent of the irrigation water needed for the crop. Krishna Iyengar's comments on the article make interesting reading. We regret that many errors have crept into an otherwise well written article.

A MODEL CO-OPERATIVE VILLAGE

Dr. R. Ahmed, Minister for Co-operation, Credit, Relief and Rehabilitation Department, Government of West Bengal, was the chief guest at the annual meeting of Joka Multipurpose Co-operative Society in 24-Parganas. This society has, within a short space of two years done very good work in making village roads, improving tanks and excavating a small *khal* in their locality. Very few co-operative societies have given a dividend of 9 per cent to their members, as this society appears to have done. Dr. Ahmed was no doubt right in hoping that this Society would serve as a model to many more rural organisations in Bengal.

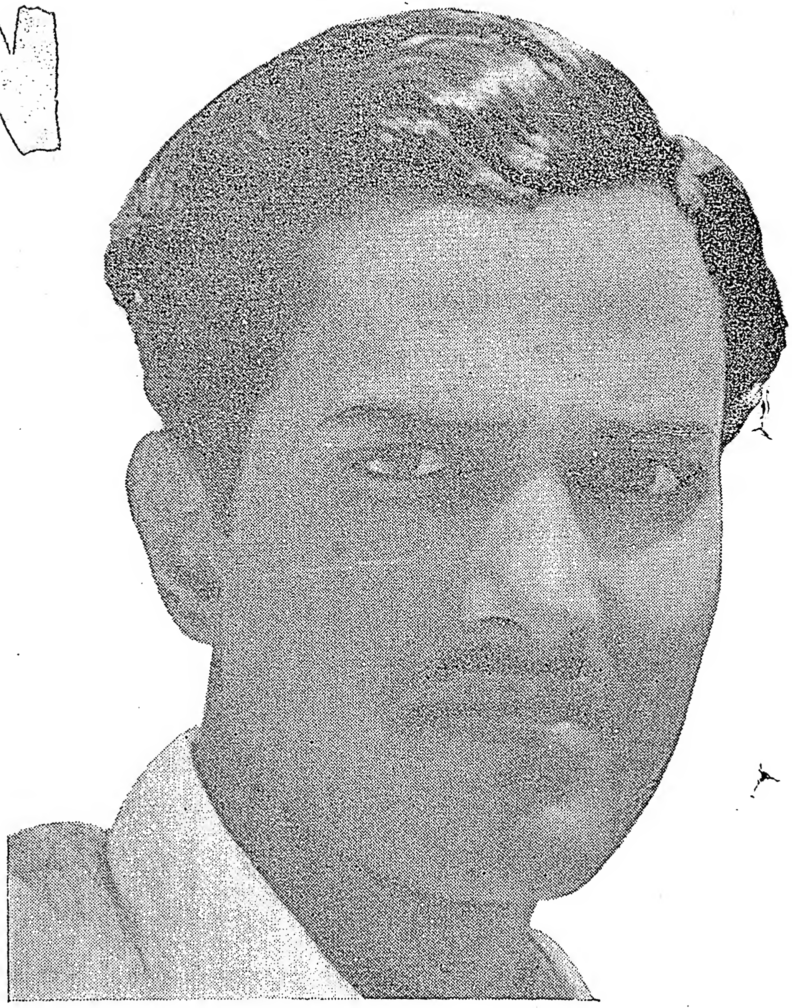
2,000 TUBEWELLS TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Two thousand tubewells in the Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, PEPSU and Bihar are to be constructed within the next twenty-four months, according to an Operational Agreement recently concluded between India and the United States of America within the general framework of the Indo-American Technical Co-operation Agreement. The total cost of the project is estimated at about Rs. 10.94 crores of which the contribution of the United States of America will be $13,700,000 (about Rs. 6.50 crores) and that of the Government of India Rs. 4.44 crores. The U.S. contribution will be made available from the 50 million dollar contribution already promised in the Indo-American Technical Co-operation Agreement.

"There are many parts of India where ample ground-water is available underneath good soil which, because of lack of sufficient rainfall, is able to produce only one crop a year during and immediately after the monsoon." Proper exploitation of ground-water resources can add substantially to the agricultural production in these regions and the project aims at tapping such resources in the Gangetic plain of India where sub-soil water conditions are proved to be favourable.

23-YEAR OLD YOUTH

THE MAN OF THE MONTH



By

A. R. VYAS,

Deputy Principal Information officer,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

TWENTY-THREE-year old Jaipal Chandra of Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh has leaped into fame overnight. India's highest yield in potatoes was till recently 726 maunds 33 seers an acre; Jaipal Chandra has this year raised it to 735 maunds and 24 seers; for 5 years in succession, Hapur town in the Meerut District carried away the most glittering awards for the highest potato yields; Bulandshahr has now wrested the honour; it has produced a champion, who has not only qualified for the first prize of Rs. 5,000/- from the State Government, but is almost certain to receive the certificate of "Krishi Pandit" for the highest potato yield during the 1951-52 season.

When I called on Jaipal Chandra at the family home in April, he was going over the accounts of the potato farm, with his father Shri Bireshwar Chandra. On learning the purpose of my visit, he was a little shy and diffident in the beginning, for it was clear that he had had little to do with inquisitive journalists, out for "copy". As our conversation proceeded, however, he gradually became at ease, for all our talks revolved round two subjects which interest him most, his father, whom the whole family affectionately calls "Lalaji" and his potato farm, which has brought him not only good income, but fame which will in the coming weeks travel across the confines of his State to all over the country. He will be the youngest "Krishi Pandit" since the inception of the annual award.

KEEN FARMING FAMILY

Fifty-nine-year old Bireshwar Chandra, head of a large joint family is a lawyer by profession and a horticulturist by conviction. Till about two and a half years ago, the family lived in village Bhur a few miles from Bulandshahr, from where the lawyer-cum-farmer carried on his fruit farming. Even today, the members of the family are known all over the town as "Bhurwallas" and the luscious guavas and mangoes of the "Bhurwalla Orchard" fetch a substantial premium in the fruit markets not only of Uttar Pradesh but also of 44-mile distant Delhi.

The father's love of the land has been transmitted to his sons. The eldest son Bhopal Chandra who is 34, specialises in winning prizes for wheat growing; last year he bagged the first prize in the district for his wheat yield of 53 maunds 5 seers an acre; this year heavy lodging of the crop which was being harvested, when I visited his field, has reduced the yield to 50 maunds and 7 seers an acre. Even so, I should be surprised if

LEAPS INTO NATIONAL FAME

brother Bhopal does not add another award for wheat growing to his lengthening list of prizes. He needs watching, for the heavy-laden ears of wheat which I saw in his field show that another "Krishi Pandit" is in the making.

The next son, five years younger, stocky Yashpal Chandra, well-built and jovial, is the Potato Development Officer of the Uttar Pradesh Government, whose efforts during the last few years have contributed in no small degree, to the phenomenal rise in potato yields in Uttar Pradesh. In 1947 the winner of the first prize in the potato competition had raised 315 maunds an acre; in 1951-52 Jaipal Chandra has beaten that record by over 420 maunds.

Jaipal Chandra is the third son, who caught the infection of growing potatoes from his father a little over two years ago; today he has beaten the "old man" at the game! Bireshwar Chandra has been a competitor in the potato competition for the last three years. In 1951 he won the district prize for the highest yield. The fourth son, aged 20 is doing a course in electrical engineering at the Aligarh University. Whether he will be able to resist the lure of the land for long is a matter of conjecture. For Jaipal Chandra too has had training in electrical engineering at the Government Technical Institute, Lucknow. He then drifted to automobile engineering in Kanpur and later to an apprenticeship in cold storage.

I grew interested in this story of changing moods, for I had seen the same leaven at work in the case of other successful farmers too. One lawyer's clerk, another a Government employee, a third an unsuccessful trader and so on, have at last found the fulfilment of their ambition in the call of the land. Jaipal Chandra belongs to that same line of successful people, who tried their luck at several ventures, before taking to farming.

METHODS USED

I asked Jaipal Chandra to give me the recipe of his success. He told me a simple tale of hard work, unremitting care, heavy manuring, good seed and adequate irrigation. From a tiny notebook in which he had evidently been keeping a record of his methods, Jaipal Chandra related the various measures that he had taken to grow the successful crop of potatoes on his little

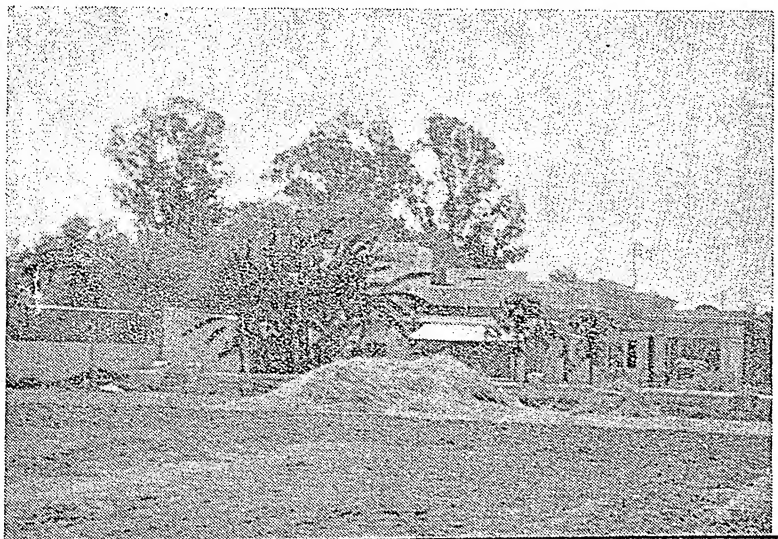
Brother Bhopal Chandra specialises in wheat growing. He won the district prize for wheat last year, with a yield of 53 maunds an acre.

more than half acre plot, which in the family holding stands in his own name.

The plot is irrigated by a Persian wheel. Last year too it had been sown under potatoes. After lying fallow for a few weeks, the land was grown with about 24 seers of sannhemp, which was ploughed into the area in June 1951. About 20 maunds of bonemeal was then applied to the land, reinforced by about 750 maunds of compost. Heavy doses of other manure were also used, about 50 per cent of the following quantities being applied before sowing and rest at the time of earthing. Superphosphate $2\frac{3}{4}$ maunds, castor cake 20 maunds, ammonium sulphate 2 maunds, 10 : 10 D.C.M. mixture 6 mds. 9 : 6 mixture 5 maunds and one maund of potassium sulphate in the form of liquid mixture. Sowing was done in the middle of October, the quality of the seed was Patna Red supplied by the State Agriculture Department, and the seed rate was 35 maunds an acre. The plot was divided into a number of ridges, at the rate of 80 for every 100 feet; the length of each ridge was 12 ft. 6 inches and the distance between the seed was $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The first watering was done a week after sowing; in about a week 50 per cent of the plants had come up when a second watering was given. This was followed

(*Continued on page 31*)



The family home with fresh mown hay in the foreground

Hints to the farmer :

MAIZE JOWAR BAJRA

By **R. D. VERMA,**
Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Maize Crop (Pusa No. 2) on the Division of Agronomy Farm, I.A.R.I., New Delhi, which yielded 38 maunds of grain per acre in 1951

NOW that the Rabi work is over, you must be planning your Kharif cropping. Yes, it is time to think and plan how to produce more from your lands for your own success in farming, and to meet the increasing demands of the country. With a view to helping you to produce more, a few suggestions are made in this article, about three crops, Maize, Jowar and Bajra, which form the back-bone of Kharif cropping in the areas with low rainfall. These suggestions will be of use to you in achieving better standards of farming.

MAIZE (Zea Mays)

Soil requirements: The most suitable soil for maize crop is rich heavy loam. It is never grown on poor sandy soils. The land must also be well drained. The crop will not thrive on water-logged areas.

Preparatory cultivation: Thorough cultivation is very essential. The land should be ploughed up with a furrow turning plough immediately after Rabi crop has been removed. Do not plank after the ploughing. This operation is very important. Any Rabi weeds still standing in the fields will get buried under and on rotting enrich the soil. The roots of Kharif weeds like, Baru, Doob, Motha, etc. will get exposed to hot sun of May and June and will be destroyed, with the result that your fields for the maize crop will be comparatively freer from weeds. You will thus save lot of trouble and expense of extra weedings later on.

Two to three ploughings with a Desi plough, followed by planking after each ploughing will be necessary after the 1st shower of rain to get a good seed-bed.

Time of sowing: The time of sowing varies with the break of S. W. monsoon. When the crop is grown for fodder or for green cobs, under irrigation, sowings may be done any time from March to August.

Method of sowing: For grain sow in rows 18 inches to 2 feet apart and 9 inches between plants in the row. For fodder, distance between rows should be reduced to 9-12″ and no thinning should be done. Avoid broadcast sowing wherever possible. It is almost impossible to get uniform germination by broadcast sowing. Further, for grain crop, dont' be tempted to sow any closer than indicated above. While a little more liberal spacing will not materially affect the yield, closer spacing, on the other hand, will seriously restrict cob formation and development, and the yield will be very much reduced. Line sowing may be done by drill or by dropping the seed in the furrow opened by a country plough. But make sure that the furrows are straight and parallel. Otherwise, it will be difficult to use bullock drawn implements for hoeing and weeding.

Seed rate: Ten to fifteen pounds of seed per acre for grain and 30-40 lbs. for fodder is quite sufficient. But make sure that the seed is sound and has good germination. You can easily test the germination by taking counted number of grains, say 100, of the seed you intend to sow. Keep the seed in a moist gunny bag in a cool place. Make sure that the seeds are kept just moist and not soaked, otherwise they will rot. After 3-4 days you will find them sprouting. Count the number of seeds which have failed to sprout. If more than 20% have not sprouted you will be wise to increase your seed rate proportionately. This test can be made a week or two before sowing time. If germination is gappy due to some unavoidable factors, fill up the gaps by dibbling the seed by khurpi as early as possible. If there are too many plants, as there would be if germination has been good, they should be thinned out to about 9″ apart. Thinning must be completed soon after germination and the

plants completely uprooted. Delay will seriously affect the growth of the plants which are to be left standing.

Varieties : Variety makes good deal of difference in the yield. A suitable high yielding variety will give higher yield at no extra cost. You should, therefor, make every effort to find out an improved variety for your area. Nobody can help more in selecting the most suitable variety for your farm than your local or nearest representative of the Agriculture Department of your State. He will be pleased to give you all the advice and will be able to meet all or part of your seed requirements. If you find the variety suitable save your own seed for next year's sowing. But to ensure purity of seed for next year, the new variety must be grown in an isolated field at least 200 yards from any other variety. This is absolutely essential for purity of the seed. This, however, will not be necessary when you have replaced the old variety. List below gives the improved varieties for some of the maize growing areas of India :

Uttar Pradesh : Tipabhia, Meerut 3, Meerut yellow, Kanpur type 31, Kanpur type 41.

Punjab : Punjab 43, Punjab 22, Punjab 12 Yellow.

Rajasthan : Sawai Madhopur (Jaipur), Basi, Hindani (Jaipur).

Madhya Bharat : Ratlam Yellow.

Bombay : Panch Mahal Dohad, Dhar (State), Baroda 3, Sameri.

Bengal : Burdwan Nepali, Chittagong Bhayabini, Burwani.

Bihar : Pusa Yellow 2, Pusa 5, Pusa 2, Pusa 14.

Hyderabad : Bidar, Aurangabad 5, Mulknur, Parbhani.

Kashmir : Kashmir local.

Delhi : Pusa Yellow No. 2.

Manuring: Maize needs heavy manuring. Unless the land is adequately manured the yield will be low. In a land of moderate fertility 250-300 mds. of farmyard manure should be ploughed in 3-4, weeks before sowing. In addition, an application of 100-150 lbs. of ammonium sulphate as top dressing when the crop is 9-12″ high will greatly benefit the crop. If you are short of farmyard manure, shortage of every 50 mds. can be made up by mixture of one maund ammonium sulphate and one maund of superphosphate (triple).

This mixture should be applied 2-2½″ directly below the seed row at the time of sowing. This can be easily done with a horse-hoe or country plough. Tie a metal tube(Pora) behind the central tine of horse-hoe or behind the country plough. Drop the fertilizer uniformly through the tube. Then sow the seed by dropping it in the opened furrow. This is a far more effective method of application of fertilizers than the old method of broadcast and results in higher yields. But make sure that the fertilizer is separated from the seed by a layer of 2-2½″ of soil. If the seed and fertilizer come in contact the germination will be adversely affected.

Weeding and earthing up : Weeding is very essential in row crop like maize. Weeds rob the crop plants of the food material, and compete for the light of the sun. They also harbour pests and diseases. If the sowing has been done in rows weeding will offer no serious problem. Bullock-drawn horse-hoe or a cultivator or even a country plough can be run in between the rows as often as necessary. You will need a yoke of suitable length to enable the bullocks to walk in between the rows and not tread on the plants. If preparatory cultivation has been thorough, 2-3 weedings will be quite adequate. Last hoeing when the crop is 8-10 weeks old should be done with the horse-hoe with the earthing up attachments fixed. Any weeds left in between the rows will be completely uprooted. The earthing up, besides burying the weeds growing in between the plants in the rows, will provide extra support to the maize plants, thus reducing the chances of lodging.

Irrigation : If the monsoon is adequate and well distributed no irrigation will be necessary, otherwise some irrigations will be necessary during the growth period at an interval of two weeks or so.

Harvesting and after : For grain, crop should be harvested when fully mature, i.e. when the seed has become hard and dry. The cobs should be thoroughly dried in single layer in the sun for a few days before storage as cobs or grain in a clean well ventilated store. For fodder, harvest the crop when it has gained maximum height but before cob formation.

Seed selection : You can greatly improve the quality of the seed if you follow the method given below. The method consists in mass selection of cobs having desirable characteristics for seed purpose. This should be done while the crop is standing in the field.

(1) Select large sized well filled cobs from the plants bearing more than one good cob. Choose healthy plants growing under normal condition, i.e. not on the borders or water channels. It is further desirable to select cobs from plants bearing them at a height of 3 to 4 feet above ground ; because if the cobs are borne higher the plants are more liable to lodge and if placed too low wild animals will cause great deal of damage. In unirrigated areas plants with narrow leaves should be preferred while for irrigated lands broad-leaved plants should be selected.

After selection, dry the cobs thoroughly in the sun and store them as such. Shelling at the time of sowing should be done by hand and not by beating with the stocks as is sometimes done.

Pests and diseases : Please see under *jowar* and *bajra*.

JOWAR AND BAJRA

(*Andropogon sorghum & Pennisetum Typhoideum*)

Both *jowar* and *bajra* are mostly grown as Kharif crops. In Western India and Madras *jowar* is also grown in Rabi season. Their cultivation is limited to areas of low rainfall usually below 40″ of rain. Paddy usually replaces these crops in areas of higher rainfall.

Soil requirements : While for *jowar* most suitable soils are stiff loams, *bajra* will thrive even on poor sandy soils. It is, therefore, better to reserve better type of soils for *jowar* and poor land for *bajra* sowing.

Preparatory cultivation : The object of preparatory cultivation is to destroy weeds, aerate the soil and prepare it for receiving the seed. The ploughing with furrow turning plough followed by exposure to hot sun for a month or two is essential to achieve this end. For seed-bed preparation for both these crops, cultivation need not be as thorough as for maize. Two ploughings with country plough will be sufficient for *jowar* and even less for the hardier *bajra*.

(*Continued on page 32*)

WINNING OVER THE FARMER

By **U. N. CHATTERJI**

I take it that there are no two opinions about the usefulness of putting across the results of research to the farmer for his benefit. If the results of research are to be put across to him, there should be some means of doing so. The first and obvious means that at once suggests itself is to put out the information in writing. This method, of course, has been successfully employed in more progressive countries where farmers are educated and can understand the meaning of the written language. Unfortunately, in our country the conditions are quite different. Most of our farmers are illiterate and written words do not convey any idea to them.

The other methods which suggest themselves are dissemination of information by means of charts, photographs, etc. and also by lantern slide projections and movies. But these methods have their own limitations. These methods cannot be always successfully employed because among other reasons photographs, charts, etc. are quite static in nature and, therefore, cannot be adjusted to changing conditions and a dynamic programme of information service.

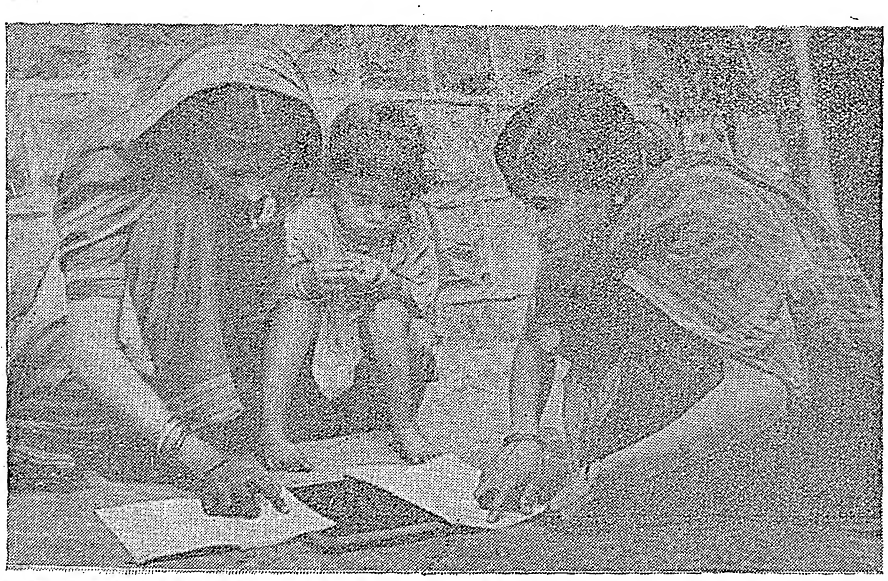
BY THE WORD OF MOUTH

Possibly, the only method which can be successfully employed in our country and which can be made to suit different conditions consists of utilising the man himself. He can be used for the purposes of conveying ideas and information. This method of using the man as the medium has a great advantage that it is a flexible one. It can be adjusted to fit in different environmental conditions. It also has the added advantage in that it can impart a personal touch to the programme that is desired to be put through. The special appeal a man has when he is talking to another man with sympathy and understanding is significant in the field of extension work. The extension worker can talk to the farmer, can understand his problems on the spot, can answer the difficulties which arise then and there, and discuss with him not only the questions pertaining to his farm but also possibly some of his personal problems. This last point about taking interest in problems of a personal nature is probably of particular importance in this country as this is an easy way to gain confidence of villagers.

OVERCOMING SUSPICION

There are some difficulties, however, in the manner of using this medium for extension work. The first and foremost difficulty is this that the farmer has a great suspicion of Government agents or, as a matter of fact, any person deputed to them by established organisations to solve their problems. This suspicion was born of a system of administration under which he had suffered and to which he has learnt to ascribe all his woes. Although that administration no longer exists, the suspicion persists and the farmer has yet to be made conscious of the fact that the system has changed for the better and, as a matter of fact, he is now entitled to choose the type of administration he likes.

The primary step is to overcome this suspicion. Nothing fruitful in extension work can be achieved unless this widespread suspicion is set at rest. There are many ways



Trying to spell out words

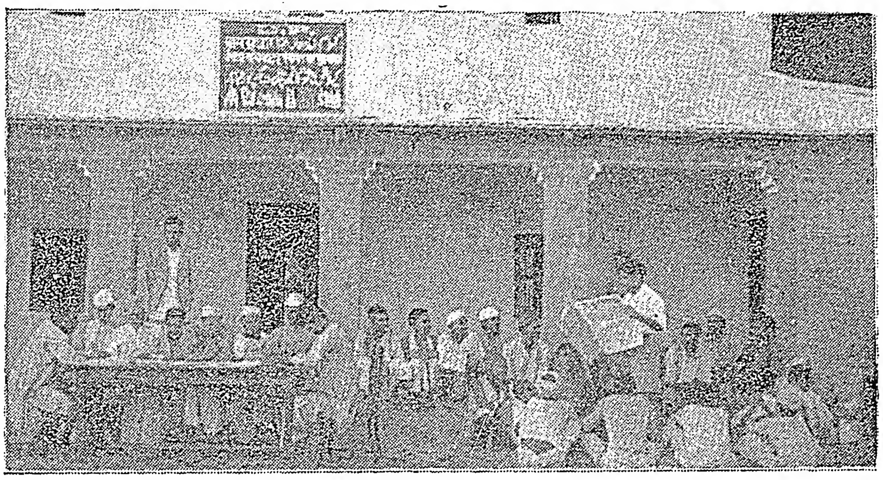
in which this can be done. Suspicion being a psychological phenomenon, naturally, psychological method of overcoming it should have preference. There should be sympathy with the farmer, sympathy not only with his vocational difficulties but also with the personal problems of his life. And what is more the farmer should be made quite conscious of this fact. There should be sincere and faithful understanding of his difficulties and the farmer should be made to feel that the person talking to him is the one who really means well. This can be done to a great extent by talking to the farmer in his own language—not the chiselled and polished language of the city-bred people, but the rustic and possibly the vulgar language that he is used to. The extension worker should himself feel the feelings of the farmers. He should see to it that the feelings of the farmers are induced in him and then only he will be able to convince the farmer to whom he happens to talk.

NARY A PREACHER

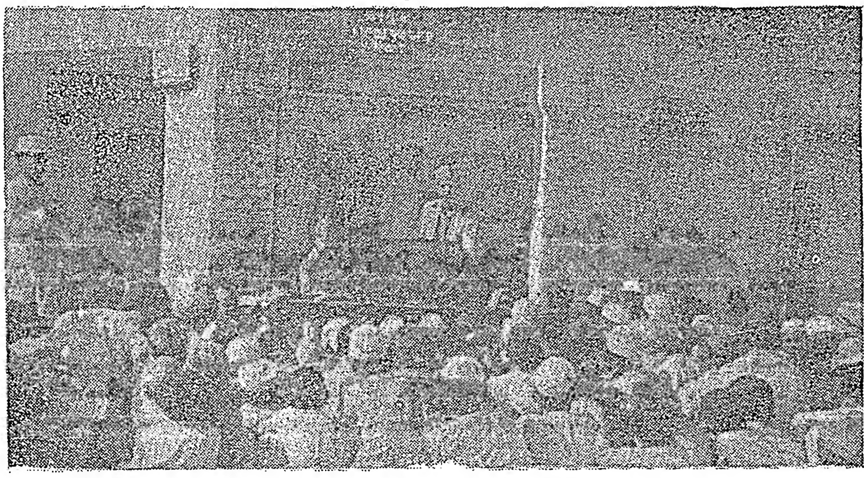
The extension worker, therefore, should not usurp or take up the role of an instructor. If he does so, his words will fail to draw the attention of the farmer and carry conviction. If the extension worker takes the place of a fellow worker then only he can be of any service to the farmer. Only then can he fulfil his mission.

Unfortunately, it appears that there is a tendency to load villagers with information. There is a feeling that the larger the amount of information the greater would be the chances of their acceptance and being used for the purpose for which they are passed on. The probability is that the villager, on the other hand, gets lost and bewildered by the volume of information and instruction given to him. Some sort of discrimination should be exercised about what is to be passed on to him for his benefit. Therefore, the information intended to be supplied to him should be relatively small in volume, and whatever is actually passed on should be well-tested and sound, should be bereft of any ambiguity, should be simple to understand and should not be verbose. The instructions should be absolutely precise. The advice should be such as the farmer can easily understand and readily adopt in his farming practices.

It may happen that informations, passed on to the farmer from various sources, are contradictory or at least seem to connote different meanings. Such a state of affairs is definitely not conducive to successful extension work. Again, the advice that is to be given to the farmer should take into account the farmer's conditions of life and work. considered exclusive of everything else; the all-round picture of the farmer's life and his family should be taken into account in outlining the programme of extension. A programme aiming at improvement in agricultural practices is not the only necessity but an improvement that will beneficially affect all aspects of the farmer's life will go a long way



News from newspapers



A radio programme is on

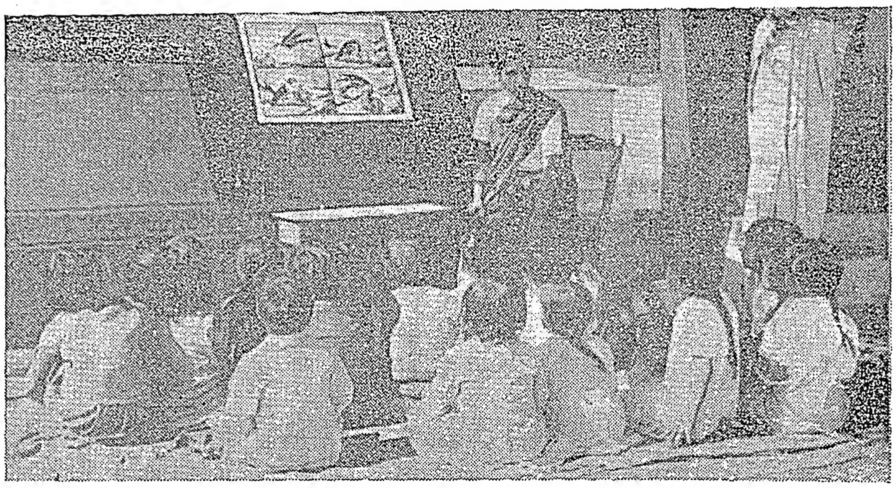
It is no use passing on information or advice which cannot be acted by the farmer however much it might ultimately benefit him and however much desirable it might be to be translated into practice.

A SOUND APPROACH NECESSARY

It should be widely appreciated that the farmer's capacity to translate all instructions or advice into practice is limited and is determined to a great extent by the farming conditions obtaining in the region. The factors conditioning his work, important as they are, should not be to ensure his co-operation in extension work. Then too it is not only the physical aspects of his life that invariably matter, but also his psychological background, his religious, and even his cultural affiliations. Unless the approach of the extension worker is psychologically sound and is able to strike a sympathetic chord in the mental phase of the farmer, any favourable response from the farmer's side can hardly be expected.

Apart from personal contact and reaching the farmer by word of

mouth, other modes of publicity and extension work may also be employed to a certain extent. As I have said the farmer in this country is generally illiterate but there may be among them persons who have acquired some sort of literacy and for them written words may have a particular fascination. Such persons very often draw a great deal of respect from other villagers and are held by them in esteem and veneration. And, therefore, if written words can be made to reach him, he can possibly use his position to disseminate the information widely. Moreover, coming from one of them, the villagers will usually attach greater value and sanctity to his words. These written and printed words should not be of the type that the ordinary educated person is acquainted with. These should be more liberally and attractively printed and the language should be such as can have a direct appeal to him. Thus, such a literate person in the village can be of real help in extension work.



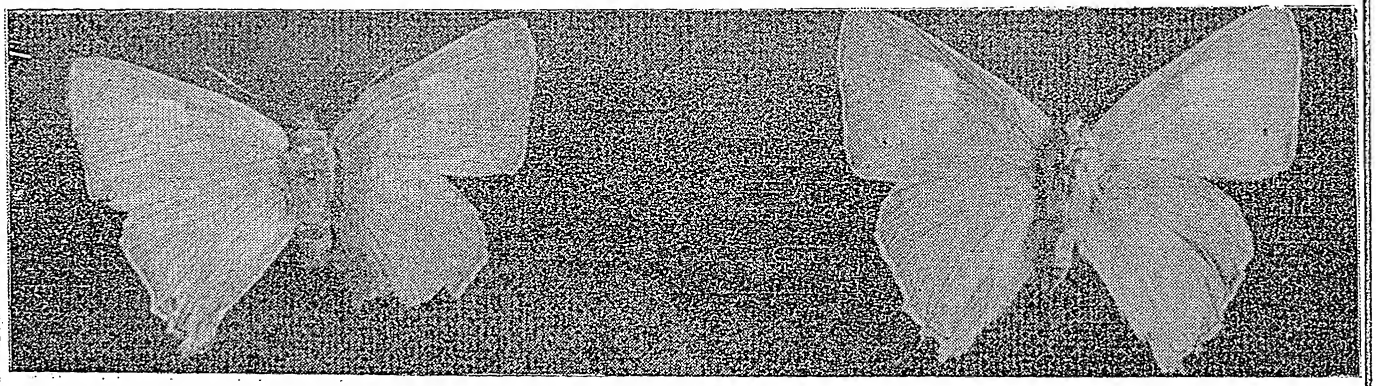
Nursery school

Practical demonstration is certainly of much importance. But projection of lantern slides, or screening of films or an exhibition usually amuses the farmer but actually does not move him much to appreciate the motives behind such shows.

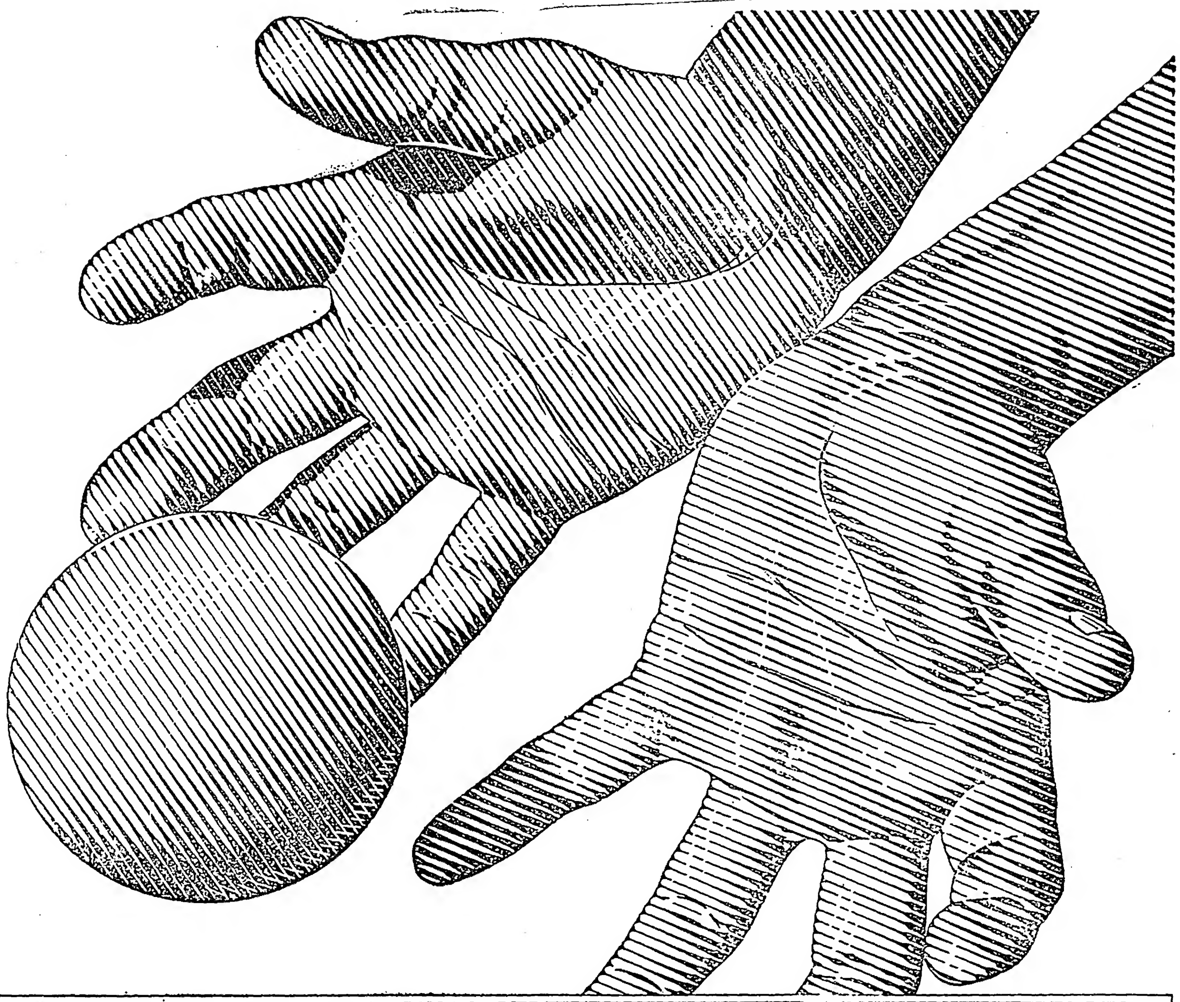
NEO-FARMERS

All our publicity and extension work centres round the actual farmer, that is, the man who has already chosen his vocation and has settled as a farmer. But we have not so far much catered to a person who wants to adopt farming as a vocation. Such a person has not been much in the picture and he has always been outside the scope of publicity and extension work. It is, therefore, necessary that publicity and extension work should be reoriented so as to appeal to the potential farmer, that is, the person who wants to take up farming as a vocation and derive his livelihood from it. Publicity, therefore, should be directed not only to the settled farmers but should also be utilised to create farmers. To the extent this is done and more people could be induced to take farming as a profession that should be the measure of success of extension work.

I have dealt with certain aspects of passing on information to the farmers for his benefit. I think it will be desirable to screen the information before it is passed on to him. This will be the surest method to eliminate the chances of contradictory information being passed on to the farmer. The quality of information and its genuineness can also thus be guaranteed. The dubious, vaguely worded or verbose instructions may be withheld from being passed on. On account of these various considerations, it would appear that there is a necessity of a central agency to canalise information. The information passing out of this agency will have an authoritative hall-mark and the farmer will have no doubt about its genuineness. His reliance on this information will, therefore, be without any reluctance or mental reservation. The set-up of such an agency should be flexible enough to allow adjustment to suit different situations in which the farmers happen to be. The set-up should also be mobile and should take into consideration human values and factors which govern relationships between man and man.



Flapping wings of multi-coloured hues, moths and butterflies present a pretty picture. But seldom is it realised that some of them are injurious pests to crops and plants. This brownish-yellow butterfly is a menace to pomegranates



VILLAGE EXTENSION WORK

By DOUGLAS ENSMINGER

The need ... What it is ... Its Objectives ... Types of programmes... the job of the village worker ... Some methods

THE need for village extension work in India is great. Today villagers are following traditional ways of thinking, farming and living, and by so doing they have little more than managed to survive. Living to survive means living in the midst of filth, with barely enough food to nourish the body, lacking in essential clothings for both decency and health, deficiency in health services and medical care and living in cultural isolation.

But today—now—in free and independent India the villager must through education and leadership be motivated to want for himself and his family more than survival. The villager must be educated to live as a free citizen in a new independent, democratic India. For the villager, this will mean taking on new ways of thinking, new ways of behaving, new ways of farming, new ways of bringing up a family and assuming new responsibilities as a citizen in the village and the nation. **Village extension work is both a programme and a process** of "helping village people help themselves" increase their food production and raise the general level of family and village living.

Village extension work is a process in that the village worker meets with villagers individually and in groups for the purpose of getting them to think and talk about their problems, needs and aspirations. If effective, this educational process should stimulate individuals and groups to ask questions about their present methods of doing things and become inquisitive wanting to know if there are improved methods and pressing for help in getting information about these new and improved practices. It is a process of creating concern from within the village and of the villagers wanting to push outside the boundaries of traditional experience and seeking help in finding new approaches to their problems of farming and family living. This process of encouraging self-recognition of need is founded upon a basic principle in human nature: Before change and development is possible, people themselves must recognize the existence of a problem, and want to change. Basic and lasting improvement will come only from a self-created desire for improvement and not from pressure exerted from outside.

It is also a process of the village worker and the villagers establishing a relationship of confidence in each other. For this process to be effective, the village worker must approach the villagers as a friend, and the villagers must accept the village worker as a friend. To gain and hold their confidence, the village worker must remain ever true to his duty of helping the villagers increase their competence in new methods so that the process of change from within can be accelerated.

Village extension work also is a **programme** in that the village worker is backed up by a technical staff available on call to help work out ways for dealing with specific problems and meeting given needs as they arise. For example, if a village is faced with a serious malaria problem and through discussion and analysis of the problem, the village worker calls in the Public Health specialist for advice. At this point a programme to solve the problem is suggested, so the people will know what they are being asked to act upon and accept as their solution. The suggested programme should spell out in detail: What is suggested, why it is suggested, how it should be done, who should do it, when it should be done, and the expected results. Only after the solution for the problem has been accepted by the villagers can it be said that the villagers and the village extension worker together have accepted and committed themselves to carrying out a malaria control programme.

The basic and overriding objective of village extension work is and must be to help people learn how to live as free citizens, capable of making the right kind of decision and assuming ever increasing responsibilities as citizens of the villages, the States and the Nation and the World. It is quite possible to achieve food self-sufficiency at the village level and yet fail miserably in achieving the more fundamental objective of teaching people to realize they are now citizens of a free country—to be useful citizens each person has a responsibility in helping mould and develop India into the kind of a nation they would wish for their children and their children's children.

The types of village extension programmes in a given village will be dependent upon the kinds of problems and needs recognized by the villagers. The importance of every one accepting this point of view cannot be over-emphasized. The village extension approach starts with the village worker and the villagers taking over the village problems. There may be many problems which the village worker would recognize as urgent, but only as the villagers recognize the existence of a problem will they accept a programme for solution.

This is not to imply that the village worker should confine his efforts to developing programmes to assist villagers solve recognised problems. Quite the contrary. The effective village worker always will be alert to opportunities and means for encouraging the villagers to recognize other and many times more pressing problems. However, the educational emphasis should be kept on creating village interest in a given situation until enough people recognize that a problem exists and want to do something about solving it. Only as enough people see a problem and want to do something about it can the village worker assist them in formulating a programme. To press them into action earlier usually will do more harm than good.

Village extension problems and programmes might be visualized as follows: (Helping people under-

stand their problems and need for programme is an essential step in village extension work.)

Problem

Lack of water for irrigation.
Low crop yields.
High death rate for malaria.
Lack of fodder for oxen.
Heavy soil erosion.
Shortage of bullock power.
Shortage of basic food.

Programme

Organizing a village co-operative to put down tube-wells and develop a plan for irrigation.

Adoption of improved seed varieties. Use of green manure crops and compost. Application of commercial fertilizer.

Mosquito control programme.
Grow more fodder drive.

Soil and water conservation programme.

Demonstrating new methods of hitching bullocks to ploughs to increase power.

Food planning and introducing new food more readily available into diet. Preservation of food readily available for use in short food periods.

The job of the village extension worker is to work directly with the cultivators in their fields, in their homes and in their village life. To be effective the village worker must be a teacher and a leader by example, providing inspiration and giving guidance. It is of utmost importance therefore that the village worker approach their jobs with sympathetic understanding and possess first hand knowledge about how and why villagers now follow present practices of making a living and in their living.

If the village extension worker is to be fully and immediately effective in village work, he must be ever ready **to show them how** to do the things he recommends to the villagers. In brief the village extension worker must recognise the dignity of working with his hands alongside the villagers in the fields, in their homes and their village life.

Extension teaching methods are tolls of village workers: Village extension teaching differs significantly from classroom instruction. It grows out of the felt needs and interests of the people. It can follow no rigid pattern or curriculum. Participation by the villagers in an extension programme always is wholly voluntary. Their interest and participation depends primarily upon the expectation of some value to be received. In every village there will be variations among villagers' in age, in educational experience, in interest, intensity of need, and in level of living. There also will be some variations in aspirations. Obviously, the results of village extension workers will be greatly influenced by the effectiveness of the teaching methods used and the skill with which the village worker can fit the various extension methods and the subject matter material to the diverse interests, abilities and needs of the villagers.

The most important single thing for the village worker to know about methods and approaches to people is accepted by the village people as a field. It is well therefore not to rush the people and try to pressure them into becoming immediately interested in any one thing. Once the village worker gains the confidence of the village people, then and only then can he effectively use the various extension methods.

Extension methods can be grouped into three broad categories. **The first group includes objective illustrations,** such as charts and posters, exhibits, slide film, motion pictures, pageants and plays, and most important, methods and results demonstration. **The second group includes oral presentation** such as visits with the cultivators on their land and in their homes, group meetings, and use of radio. **The third group includes such written and printed materials** for distribution as bulletins and other publication, newsletters, and news articles in papers. When properly used, these different methods are the tools with which the village worker stimulates interest and brings about improvement in farming, or home-making, or village living practices. **No one method meets all needs.** If used in the proper combinations, however, they can greatly increase the number of villagers reached and influenced to adopt better ways of farming and living.

THE OBJECTIVE EXTENSION METHODS

Experience around the world supports the conclusion that the demonstration is the foundation stone of village extension work. Demonstration is based on the idea of *showing* rather than writing or talking. It presents a proven improved practice in terms of its application to a specific situation. There are two types of demonstrations :

(1) Method Demonstration, and
(2) Result Demonstration.

A Method Demonstration is one that shows an individual or group **how to do** a given thing or carry out a specific recommended practice. It deals with actual techniques of farming or home-making such as cutting fodder, construction of a building, making a garment.

The Result Demonstration shows by example the results obtained from the practical application of a proven practice. It points out through local proof the advantages of adopting a new practice.

METHOD DEMONSTRATION

The wise village extension worker will teach people how to do things by showing them how and then helping them do the things they have been shown. This is the proper use of the result demonstration.

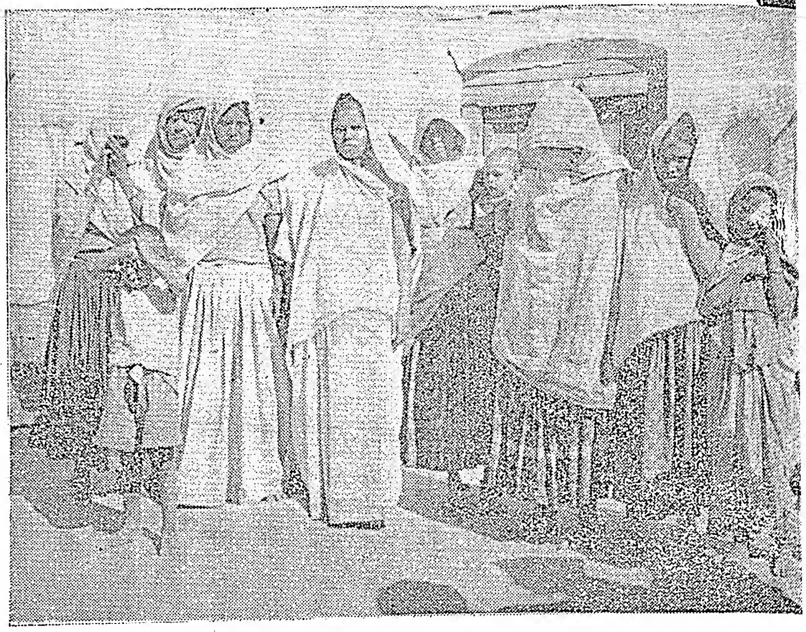
Strong Points

1. Teaches skills effectively.
2. Motivates and stimulates action because seeing, hearing, discussing, and doing are employed.
3. Builds confidence in the villager.
4. Promotes personal acquaintances between the village worker and people.
5. Serves as news-creating agency and therefore stimulates publicity.
6. Yields high rate of "takes" to "exposure".
7. Accomplishes changes in practices at low cost.

Limitations

1. Is not well adapted to all subject matter.

(*Continued on page 14*)



The Village Level Worker

ONE of the most hopeful trends in village development work has been the new rate at which college graduates are enrolling in training as village level workers. In the photo on left, the two young men in the foreground are college graduates training in the Lakna Training Center at Etawah. These two men here are serving as village level workers. In the background, citizens of a nearby village are lining up for inoculations. It has been found that with these graduates more of the essential services can be offered to the villager and in turn the villager is quicker to accept the worker as his adviser and friend. These young men expect to be promoted to a higher position following their experience as a village level worker after they have proved that they can do the work of a farmer, can obtain his confidence, and generally demonstrate the proper leadership abilities.

Another encouraging trend has been the manner in which village women have been accepting the women village level worker and coming to her for advice and training. The village level worker shown in the photo on right, standing fourth from the left has been giving these women training in child care and sanitation. Her programme includes training in food preparation and other domestic activities as well.

J. MALCOLM ORCHARD,
Ministry of Food & Agriculture,
Government of India, New Delhi.

VILLAGE EXTENSION WORK

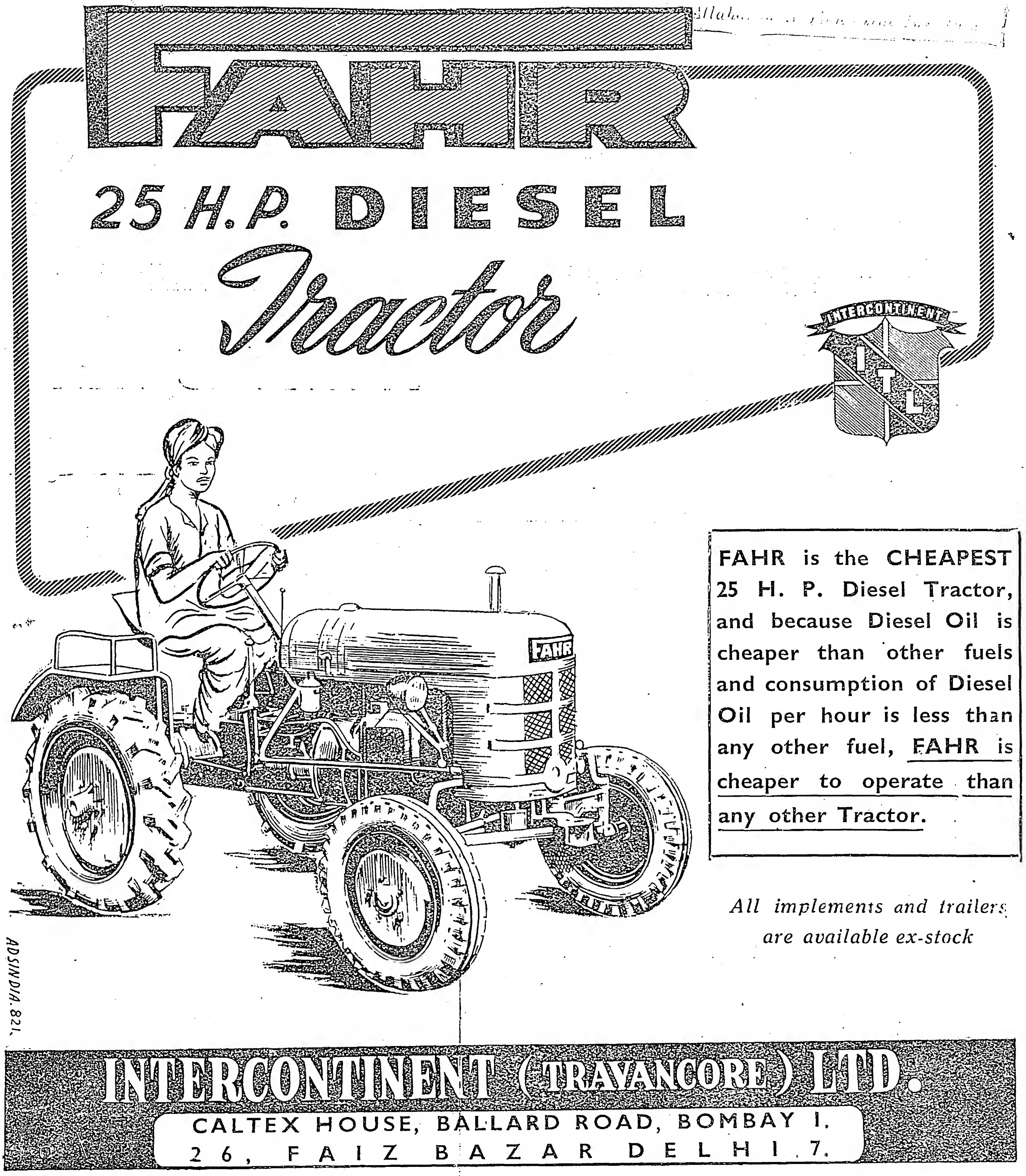
(*Continued from page 13*)

2. Will have little teaching value if actual work and illustrative material are not seen well.
3. Requires large amount of preliminary preparation.
4. Necessitates considerable skill on the part of the demonstrator.
5. Involves slightly greater expense than do general meetings.

The following suggestions are guides for use of method demonstration :

1. Select topic pertinent to needs and interests of community.
2. Select a subject which lends itself to demonstrating.
3. Present demonstration when subject matter is timely.
4. Select place providing suitable facilities for the demonstration.
5. Publicize adequately.
6. Be thoroughly familiar with subject matter.
7. Plan demonstration so that action, explanation, and use of equipment reinforce the central idea.
8. Talk directly to the audience in a friendly, conversational manner. Avoid arguments and overaggressiveness.
9. Use appropriate demonstration materials which can be easily and clearly seen by all.
10. Use equipment that farm people have or can easily obtain.
11. Present topic step by step in a logical sequence, explaining one thing at a time.
12. Show appreciation for methods already being used by group.
13. Summarize carefully.
14. Distribute interesting supplementary literature.

(*To be continued in the next issue*)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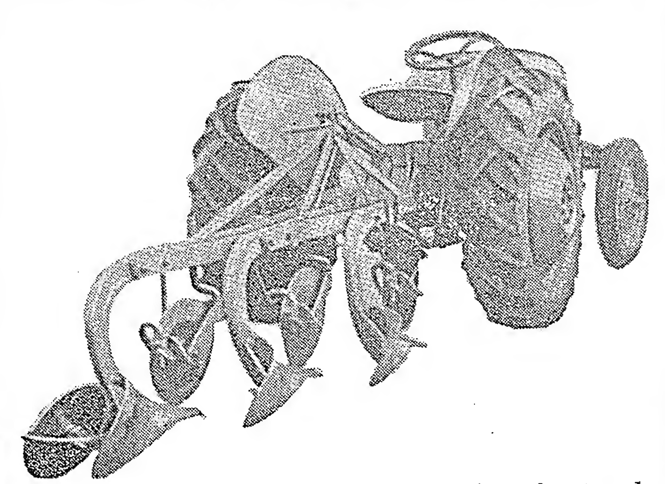

Fig. 1. *A Tractor with Hydraulic lift and integral implement (3 furrow plough)*

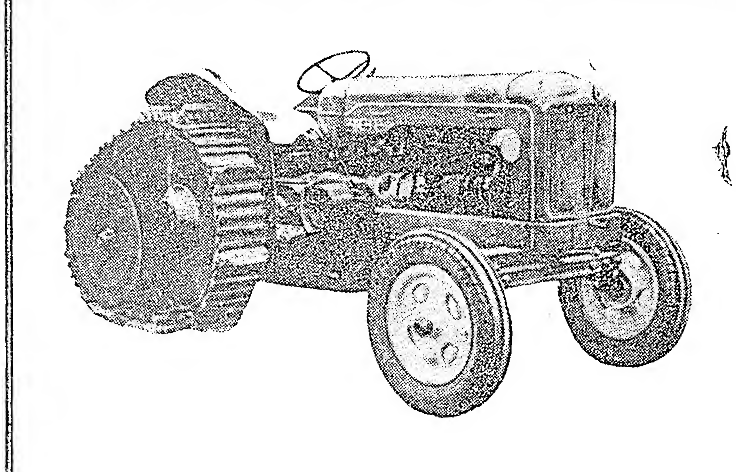

Fig. 2. *A Tractor which can be used on Rubber wheels or tracks*

WHAT IS NEW I[...] ENGINE[...]

By **R. V. RAMIAH,** Head of the Dept. o[...]

WITH regard to agricultural mechanisation, progress has been rapid in the U.S.A. and to some extent in the U.K. necessitated by conditions created by the recent World War.

AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS

In agricultural tractors, the most recent advancement has been the introduction of a hydraulic lift, whereby the tractor and its implement operate as one unit. The hydraulic lift also introduces an element of safety in that the implements will not be damaged, when stones or roots are encountered below ground level. The use of rubber tyre for tractors is on the increase, giving faster speeds in farm operation and also enabling tractors for haulage of farm produce. In the U.K. what is known as Half-Tracks has been developed to use the same tractor either on wheels or on tracks, with a view to making use of the tractor in any kind of soil or climate.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINES

In the field of agricultural implements and machinery, the disc plough or what is known as rotary ploughing is coming into use in large wheat fields, replacing the conventional mould board plough of the West. The rotary ploughing gives more output and at a lesser cost compared to mould-board ploughing. The roto-tiller or rotovator or a kind of rotary cultivators are being introduced for vegetable and garden crops in preference to other methods of tillage. Due to development of high power tractors and disc ploughs, land preparation and seeding are done in one operation by attaching a seed drill behind a disc plough. The progress in harvesting machines both for food and fodder and commercial crops has been marked these days. A number of U. S., Australian and British Companies have developed the self-propelled combines, which, while moving in a ripened filled, cut and thrash the standing grain and deliver clean and graded grain in bags on the moving machine. Unlike in the earlier design of combines, these self-propelled machines can go into the fields without spending time in opening up the fields. Digging and harvesting machines are developed for the groundnut crop in the U. S. A. and introduced in parts of Africa also. Machines for harvesting cotton called cotton pickers are replacing human labour in southern parts of the U. S. A. The latest machines in harvesting are those for sugarcane which cut and load the crop into standing trucks, mechanisation of the root crops such as potato and sugar beet is being attempted and machinery are being prepared for this purpose. Combined drills for fertiliser and seed are becoming popular in Western countries for row crops like beans and peas.

WEATHER CONTROL

Agriculture in the past was developed keeping in view the existing weather conditions of a country. Controlling weather to suit crops has been attempted in the U. S. A. recently. Making 'Artificial Rain' or getting rain when needed for crops, by dropping from aeroplanes ice pellets on clouds, has succeeded to a limited extent. In Australia and New Zealand, new devices for spray irrigation, where water is delivered to crops, as if it is natural rain, has increased the acreage for a given quantity of water. Chemical fertilisers are

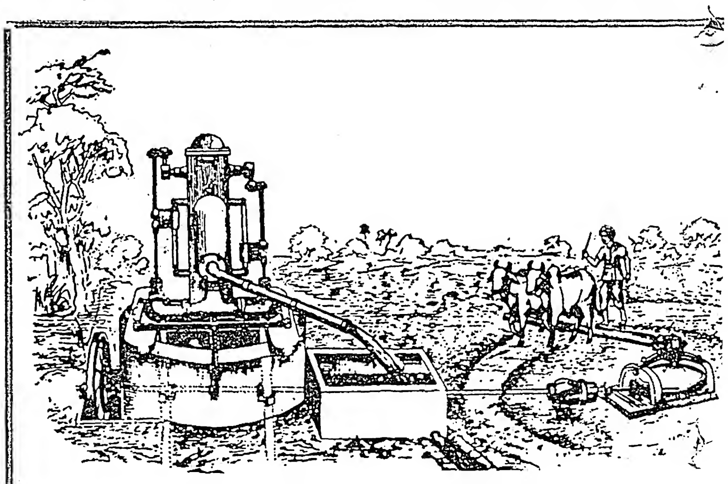

Fig. 5. *A Bullock operated pump*

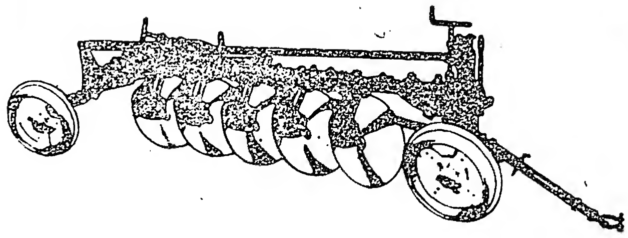

Fig. 3. *A disc plough used in wheat lands*

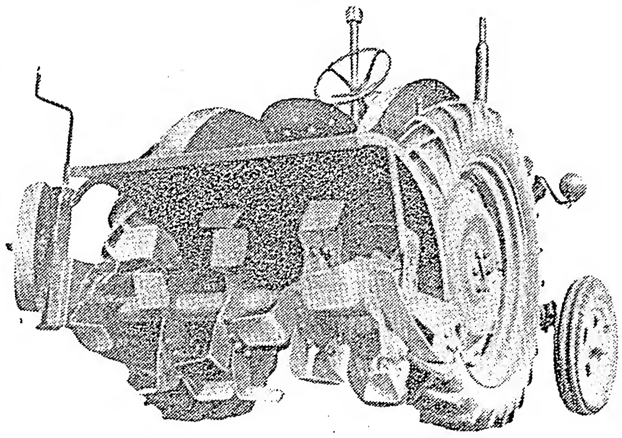

Fig. 4. *A Rotary ploughing attachment*

N AGRICULTURAL
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f Agricultural Engineering, I.A.R.I., New Delhi.

dissolved in such water and sprayed on to crops along with irrigation water.

ELECTRICITY IN FARMING

Use of electricity for control of fog in gardens and orchards has been experimented in Michigan, U. S. A. Blowing hot air at ground level by using high-powered engines has also been attempted in lessening the effects of fog on ripening crops. The use of electricity in agriculture has been on the increase, in all the industrialised countries of the West. Experiments on using electric power for land preparation such as ploughing have been conducted in the U. S. A., Russia and Britain. The greatest use of electricity in agriculture, has been in the dairy and poultry houses. Electricity operated milling machines, and machines for separating cream, pasteurising and bottling milk and for making cheese and butter are on the increase in Western countries. Electric power has been utilised for such novel uses as soil sterilisation for eradicating diseases through soil and for soil heating in glass houses and orchards to create the necessary temperature for seed germination. Electricity has been used in Japan for attracting and killing pests of the rice crop. Electrically operated fly killing machines are in use in many of the large Dairy and Horse sheds in the U. S. A.

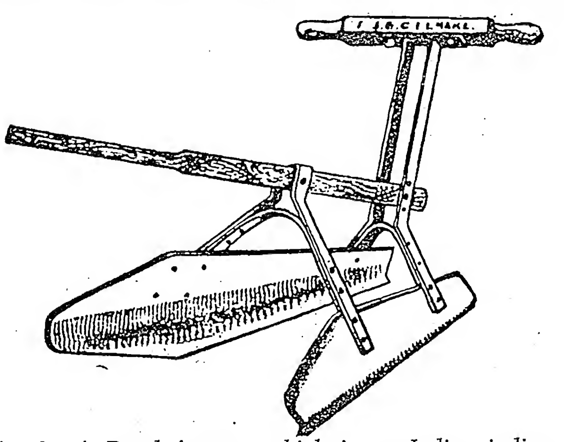


Fig. 6. *A Bund former, which is an Indian indigeneous implement, now being hitched behind a tractor in one or two units*

AIRCRAFT IN AGRICULTURE

A new machine that is making its way into agriculture is the aeroplane and the hellicopter. Many farmers in California use the aeroplane for seeding rice and some use the plane for spraying large areas of crops. The aeroplane is also being used for soil survey and locust control work. By the use of aircraft for transport and refrigeration artificial insemination of cattle in countries at long distance has been possible at low cost.

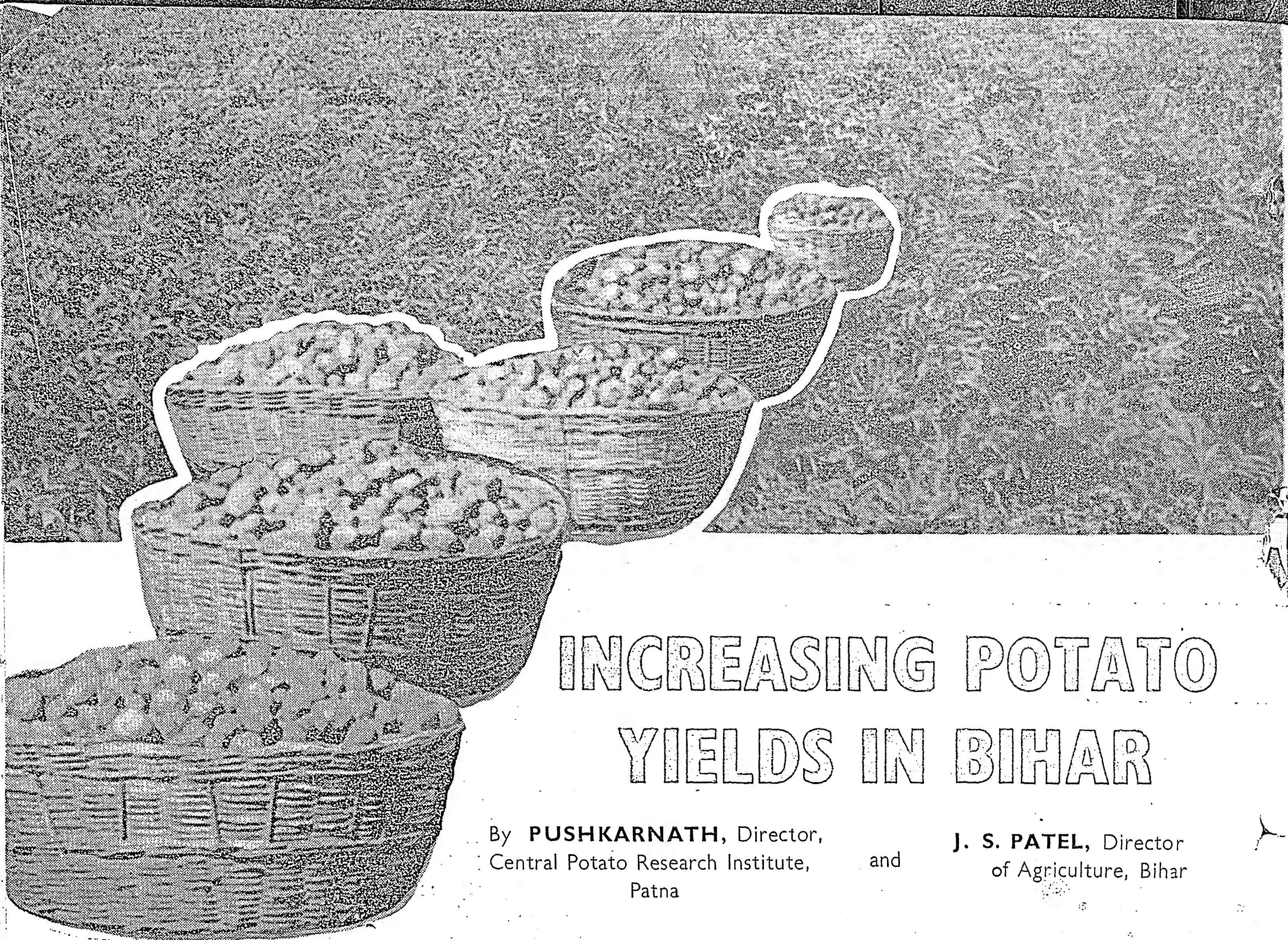
POWER FROM THE WIND

Wind is being used for running wind mills which pump water and grind corn in the Mid Western States of the U. S. A. The U. K. has planned a series of wind mills to generate and store electricity for agricultural purposes. Farm size wind mills electric plants are in use in the U. S. A. to generate and store electric power for a farm home or dairy, to run a refrigerator, washing machine or a radio.

Explosives are put to use in land reclamation work, where roots and stones have to be pulled out. Dynamite is used for preparing surface ditches or canals either for drainage or irrigation and this method is known to be cheaper than machine methods or manual labour. Machines have been developed for digging and cleaning irrigation channels or for making bunds in rice fields.

In land drainage, the use of moles or mole drainage machines to drain out sub-surface water in heavy clay soils is becoming popular in the U. K. and the U. S. A.

Here in India, experiments have been successfully conducted to run pumps by bullock power. Some of the indigenous bullock—operated implements of India are being used by hitching on the tractors to utilise the good points of both. Refrigeration is made use of, for preserving seeds of some root crops, particularly potato.



INCREASING POTATO YIELDS IN BIHAR

By **PUSHKARNATH**, Director, Central Potato Research Institute, Patna and **J. S. PATEL**, Director of Agriculture, Bihar

DURING 1950-51 demonstrations of certain aspects of potato improvement in the cultivators' fields at Patna City (Bihar) were undertaken by the Central Potato Research Institute in cooperation with the Bihar Department of Agriculture and the Plant Protection Directorate of the Government of India, Ministry of Food & Agriculture, New Delhi. A report on this appeared in the December, 1951 issue of "Indian Farming". The present note gives an account of the scientific basis of the developmental work done during 1951-52. The programme was executed through the combined efforts of the Central Potato Research Institute and the Bihar Department of Agriculture.

MAKING GROWERS "VIRUS CONSCIOUS"

The most outstanding feature of the year is that growers are becoming "virus conscious". Education and demonstrations have made them to realize that marked increase in yields can be expected through the use of virus-free seed stocks. Practice of roguing plants showing virus infection, as recognizable by symptoms like severe mottling or rolling of leaves accompanied by marked reduction in vigour, is now becoming increasingly popular. Cultivators appreciate that traditional practice of importing seed stocks of Darjeeling Red Round from the hills and sowing it as Katwa crop (cut and planted late in November-December) is but only a means of securing relatively disease-free stocks. Virus disease being less prevalent in the cool climates, seed potatoes from the hills are expected to be healthier than the stocks of the same variety grown in the plains. Once grown in the plains, hill stocks of Darjeeling Red Round are in great demand. The practice of roguing of Katwa crop for disease-free stock has further raised and ensured healthy standards and consequently greatly improved the quality of seed potatoes. This link between science and practice is indeed a welcome feature and Patna seed of Darjeeling Red Round should prove of real value in the country. The decision to store under control and supervision of Bihar Department of Agriculture 40 maunds of produce from every acre of crop rogued and sprayed for late blight is most opportune. Besides helping to build up stocks it would also serve as a corrective to certain malpractices habitually adopted by the trade.

SPRAYING TO KEEP OFF LATE BLIGHT

Premature death by late blight, (locally known as Afat) is a dreaded disease responsible for great reduction in yields particularly in the late sown Katwa crop. In certain years almost total crop failures have been registered. This disease, which was hitherto known to be the disease of cool moist hill regions has established firmly in the plains of India. The initial source of infection is believed to be carried with the seed tubers received from the hills. It is a safe practice, therefore, to carefully examine the tubers used for Katwa planting and rejecting those which may show

Spraying means insurance against premature death by late blight

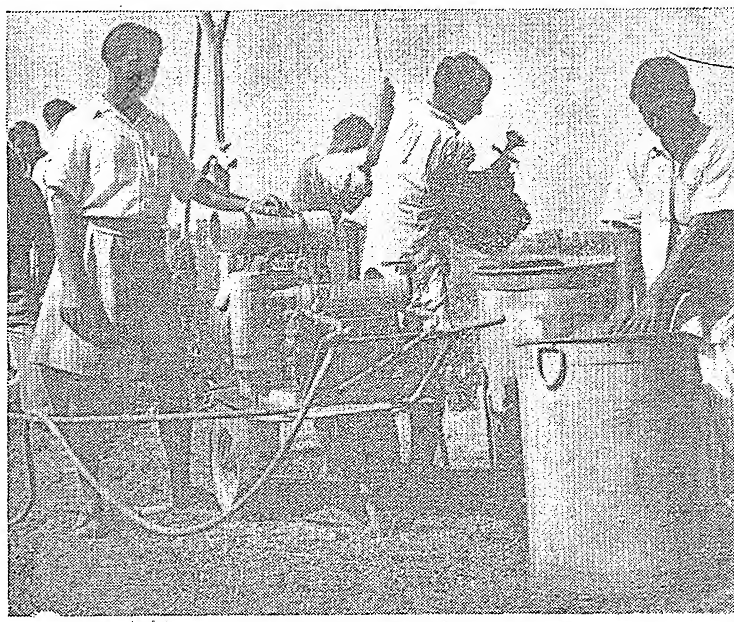
brownish discolouration—symptoms usually associated with late blight. This serious disease, if ignored at this stage, may, in course of time, threaten the entire potato industry of the State. The Central Potato Research Institute has initiated a long range programme to evolve blight resistant varieties suitable for conditions obtaining in the plains. Making use of the late blight resistant wild potato (*Solanum demissum*) several new hybrids evolved at the Simla Station of the Central Potato Research Institute are being tested and results of value have been secured. At present, however, the only method of preventing the disease is by spraying the crop with suitable fungicides.

Demonstrations conducted in the cultivators' fields in Patna City in 1950-51 and again in 1951-52 in Patna City and also at Biharshariff have shown that proprietary product " Perenox " of the Imperial Chemical Industries is effective in giving the necessary protection to the plants against the blight disease. Proportions of various ingredients used for 100 gallons (a quantity sufficient to cover an acre of crop) are :

Perenox	.. 3½ lbs.	
Rosin	.. 2 lbs.	
Soda ash	.. 1 lb.	(This may be increased to 2 lbs. if only an inferior grade is available).
Water	.. 100 gallons.	

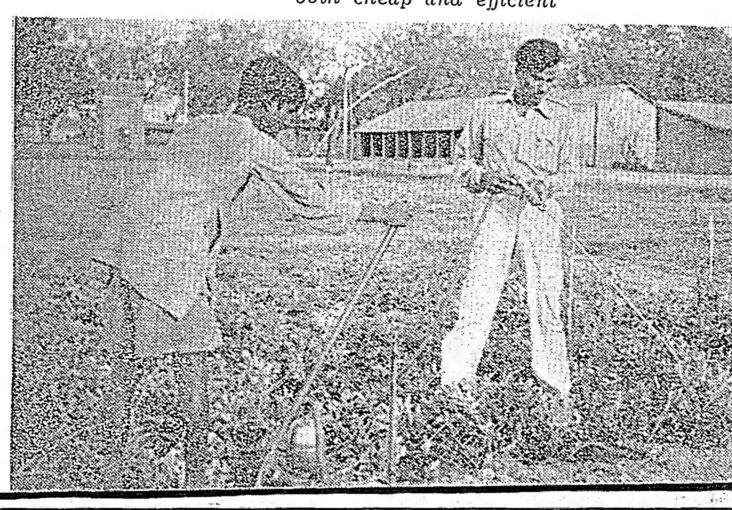
Rosin acts as a sticker and spreader and, therefore, it is necessary to secure a thorough emulsion of rosin in soda. This can be accomplished by adding soda ash in one gallon of water and to this boiling solution slowly adding powdered rosin. Constant stirring and boiling for 10-20 minutes is necessary to ensure uniform and vicid emulsion. Perenox powder is added and stirred up in water and later rosin-soda emulsion is added. If there be danger of wet weather to follow increasing rosin-soda to double the quantity is desirable. In practice it is convenient to make a stock solution of rosin-soda emulsion which would keep well for about a week.

In 1951-52 experiments carried out with Bordeaux mixture (copper sulphate and lime solution) have also been found to be very satisfactory. Copper sulphate,



Power sprayer with double delivery nozzles is useful fo large holdings

Double suction hand sprayer useful for small holdings i both cheap and efficient



The new heavy yielding hybrid O.N. 2236 is also prized for its good tuber shape and size (inset)

which is the main constituent of Bordeaux mixture is manufactured within the country by firms like Bengal Chemical Works, Calcutta, Alembic Chemical Works, Baroda and Mysore Chemicals & Fertilizers Works, Mysore, and the other ingredient, quick lime is also easily available. The following are the ingredients and quantities for 100 gallons of Bordeaux mixture sufficient to cover an acre of crop :

Copper Sulphate ..	10 lbs.	
Quick lime ..	10 lbs.	
Rosin	1 lb.	(2 lbs. may be used if an inferior grade is available.)
Water soda ..	100 gallons.	

As copper sulphate takes time to get into solution, it is preferable to place the required quantity of crystals in a coarse cloth or gunny bag and suspend it over-night in sufficient volume of water. The solution thus obtained is made up to 90 gallons by addition of water. Quick lime is slowly slaked and mixed well, first in a small quantity of water, and later made up to 9 gallons. The copper sulphate solution is slowly poured into the lime water (it should never be done in any other way) and to secure a fine suspension during the processes of mixing the entire liquid is vigorously stirred with sticks. Fine suspension is preferred and slow pouring and quick stirring are, therefore, desirable. To this Bordeaux mixture one gallon rosin-soda emulsion is added. The mixture is ready and should be used immediately after preparation. Should it become unavoidable to leave any part of the solution over-night, addition of 2 lbs. Of *gur* or sugar to every 100 gallons of the mixture helps. Acid copper corrodes metallic vessels. Wooden or earthen vessels are, therefore, used. When metallic vessels alone are available they should be well coated with asphalt or painted with white lead.

Diathane is yet another fungicide which has been found to be useful. It is a liquid preparation and following is the recipe for a 100 gallon solution :

Diathane-D-14 ..	2 quarts.	(equal to 2270 cc.).
Zinc sulphate ..	1 lb.	
Lime	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	
Water ..	100 gallons.	

CHOOSING THE FUNGICIDE

The choice of fungicide would depend on several local considerations. Perenox and Diathane are both proprietary products and their availability and prices are dependent on foreign imports. Perenox gives severe burning effect on some cereals, especially wheat, which is often intercropped with potato. Ingredients of Bordeaux mixture are easy to secure and are available within the country. The following table gives the cost of materials for spraying an acre crop and such two or three sprays would be necessary to give full protection against late blight. Slightly more trouble needed in preparing Bordeaux solution is compensated by its cheapness.

Cost of fungicides per acre

	One spraying			3 sprayings		
Perenox	16	8	0	49	8	0
Diathane D-14 ..	16	0	0	48	0	0
Bordeaux	11	2	0	33	6	0

For those having large holdings a power sprayer (Hydraulux-type) is most useful. The sprayer can be manipulated like a perambulator, and with 8 people, besides the mechanic, a sprayer with double delivery nozzles, can cover about 5 acres during an 8-hour working day. A single delivery nozzle machine can cover 3 acres a day with 5 men besides the mechanic. Cultivators having small holdings might not be able to afford a power sprayer unless they work on a cooperative basis. For these, hand sprayers have been found to be very effective. Hand sprayers operated by foot-pump are both convenient and efficient. Each machine can cover an acre a day with 3 men. Experiments with several other sprayers like bucket sprayers, knapsack pressure sprayers, etc. have presented certain practical difficulties in their operation and manipulation in the field.

SPRAYING

Time of spraying is important. Prevention and not control of the disease should be the aim. It is therefore, necessary to know the approximate time of the appearance of the disease. Cool, wet weather favours the appearance and spread of the disease. In Patna City area and Biharsharif the end of December is the time for its first appearance. Here spraying

is done about the middle of December. The second spraying may be started by the middle of January if the weather is favourable for spread of the disease, and if it is unfavourable the second spraying could be postponed to the end of January. Two sprayings are generally enough but a third may be given towards the beginning of February or a little later, particularly for Katwa crop which stands in the fields for a longer period.

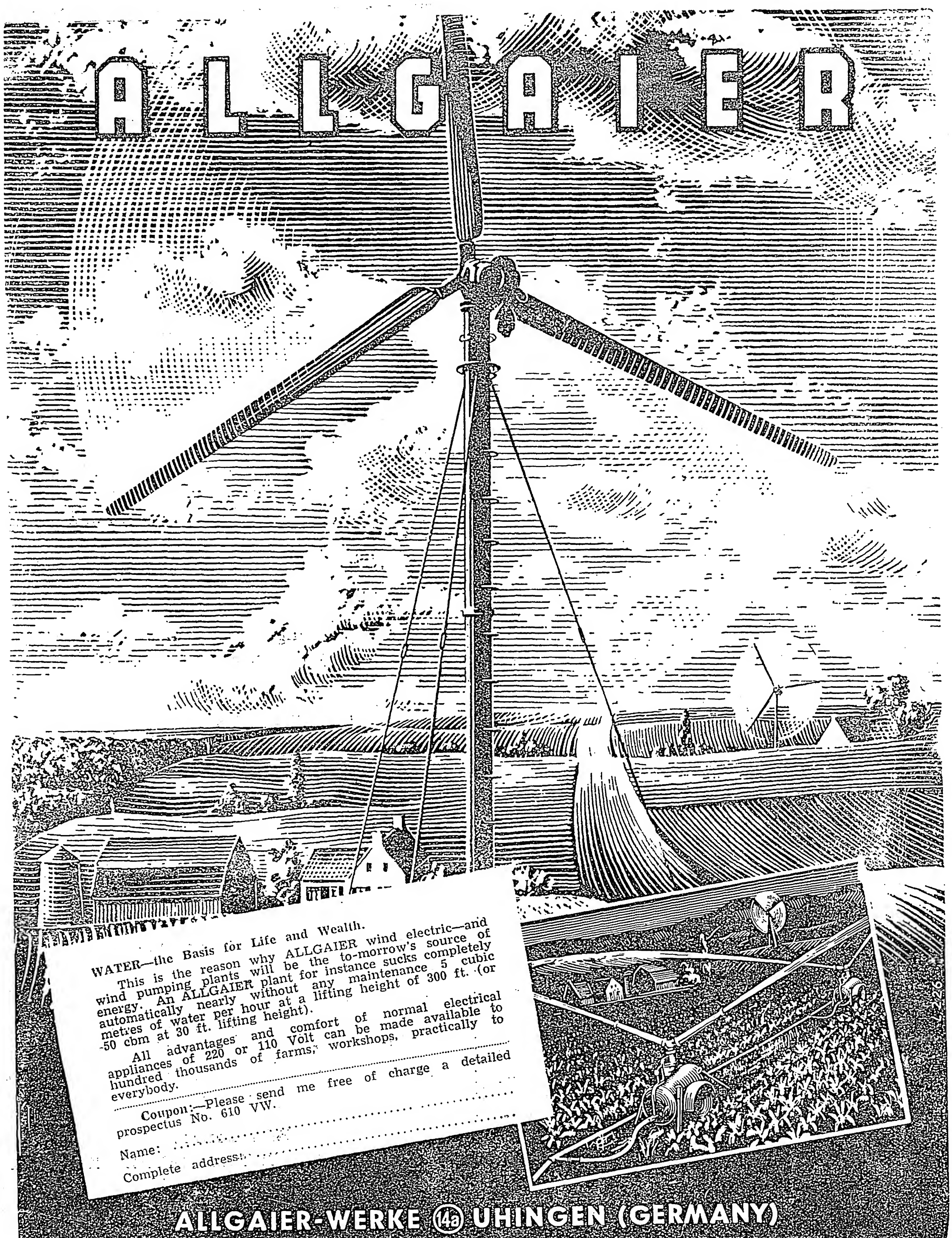
Working under the technical guidance of Central Potato Research Institute, the Bihar Government Plant Protection Department has organized a scheme for spraying operations which were carried out during the year over an extensive area in Patna City and Biharshariff. Last year the entire cost of spraying was met by the State Government and during this year the scheme was worked on a subsidy basis. Each cultivator co-operating with the scheme pays Rs. 15 per acre towards the cost of the spraying and the balance is subsidized by the Bihar Government. It is hoped, that the cultivators will in due course meet the entire cost of the materials and take up the spraying work themselves as a part of normal cultural practices. In the meantime, however, the departmental scheme organized in 1951-52, will continue to operate and extend its activities over an extensive area in Patna City, Biharshariff and other potato growing districts of the State.

MULTIPLYING AND TRYING OUT NEW VARIETIES

There is very insufficient and a poor range of varieties available for commercial potato growing in this country. New varieties are being evolved at the Central Patato Research Institute and its Sub-station at Simla. These are being tried extensively both in the departmental farms and cultivators' fields throughout the country. At Patna, trials with a number of varieties in the cultivators' fields conducted in 1950-51 and continued in 1951-52 have now fully justified the merit of O. N. 2236, a hybrid originally bred at the Simla Sub-station. A heavy clean crop of uniform, white, oval shaped potatoes has won it greater favour and compared with the local Darjeeling Red Round which yields about 200 mds. per acre, O. N. 2236 is expected to yield well over 300 mds. to an acre. Quantities of seed stock of this and other hybrids available at the experimental farm of the Central Potato Research Institute are at present very small but facilities are being provided to rapidly build up the foundation stocks for distribution.

Side by side with the multiplication of newer and better varieties the work connected with the trials, which were hitherto carried out in Patna City, is now being carried out in yet another zone at Biharshariff. Biharshariff is an important potato growing tract and here the cultivators specialize in early types, like the 60-day-Satha. In trials several hybrids have yielded 2 to 3 times more yield than Satha. Besides being as early as Satha, the hybrids yielded a better commercial grade of tubers. Arrangements are, therefore, being made to try some early hybrids on a commercial scale during the next *rabi* season. New early varieties are expected to yield at least 100 mds. compared to about 60 mds. per acre secured from Satha variety.

Side by side with the varietal production, experiments connected with rational manurial practices in relation to varieties are also in progress.



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COMPOST MANURE

By **C. N. ACHARYA,**
Indian Agricultural Research
Institute, New Delhi.

THE use of *gobar* or cow-dung as manure is a long established practice in this country and the manure has been found to give good results on almost all soils and crops. 'But sadly enough' said Gurcharan Singh, a successful farmer, 'due to the indiscriminate cutting down of trees and forests without a proper scheme for their regeneration, there has arisen in recent years an increasing deficiency of wood fuel in the villages, and as a consequence, the practice has become common of using cow-dung, converted into dung cakes, as substitute fuel. As a result, the quantity of cow-dung available for manure preparation has become progressively less, with the result that our soils have become increasingly less fertile and unproductive.

Gurcharan Singh said that he used *gobar* (cow-dung manure) to keep his land in a fertile condition by improving its physical condition like tilth and drainage properties; at the same time it added to the soil a substantial amount of plant food elements like nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash and calcium. Gurcharan Singh was not wrong. It is now well known that many of the trace elements also like manganese, boron and copper which are so necessary for healthy plant growth are also added to the soil through cow-dung. Much of the beneficial action of soil humus is achieved through the agency of micro-organisms which multiply in millions on the addition of manure and help to decompose and liberate from the manure the plant food elements needed for the growth of the crop.

On account of the valuable properties of organic manures, no wonder that Gurcharan Singh found that the best crop yields could be obtained over long periods by periodic applications of such manure to the soil. This was because of the valuable properties of the organic manures. Of course these should be supplemented by mineral elements which might be deficient in the soil, e.g. nitrogen or phosphoric acid and in some cases, potash or lime. In view of the short supply, however, of cow-dung manure, Gurcharan Singh has attempted to prepare a substitute manure with similar properties, by the well-known methods of composting.

With the help of the method of compost-making, he could prepare 5 to 6 cartloads of good manure from a single cartload of cowdung. Thus the available supplies of substitute farmyard manure can be increased considerably. Thus by taking the trouble of collecting all the refuse material like weeds, crop-stubble, *bhusa*, leaves, uneaten fodder, etc. available on his farm and also the ash, sweepings, leaf-fall and other refuse available in his house and by fermenting the same with the help of the cow-dung and urine of his animals, he could considerably increase the available supply of substitute farmyard manure.

CATTLE-SHED COMPOST

The method of composting dung with refuse, according to Gurcharan Singh, is simple. He did it as follows :

He collected the crop-litter, stubble, weeds, uneaten fodder and other refuse available on the farm and kept them in a heap outside his cattle shed. Each evening when the cattle were brought back and tied up in the shed, about 5 lb. (2½ seers) of the litter he spread under each animal, localised in the areas where urine is found to collect and soak into the ground. In the morning, he cleaned up the cattle-shed floor and removed the whole of the dung and urine-soaked litter, mixed them well and transferred them into a pit. Two pits of size 20 ft. length, 5 to 6 ft. breadth and 3 to 3½ ft. depth were found sufficient for about four animals. He began filling the pit from one end by the method of sectional filling. That is he started by marking off a section of 3 ft. length of the trench with partition made of *jowar* or *tur* (*arhar*) stalks. Into this section he dumped the daily collections of dung and urine soaked litter brought from the cattle shed. In about 10 days, when the first section of the trench was filled up to a height of about 2 ft. above ground level, the top of the heap was made dome-shaped and plastered with earth and an adjoining 3 ft. length of the trench was taken up for filling. In this way, he filled up the whole trench say in about 3 months' time after which he took up a second trench taken up for filling in a similar manner. By the time the second trench was filled up, the contents of the first trench had become mature and could be taken out for application to land and the trench could again be put to use in the same manner. Normally, Gurcharan Singh said he could get about 200 cu. ft. or about six cartloads of compost manure per year per head of cattle.

FARM COMPOST

But Gurcharan Singh had a piece of land, a long distance away from the village where he kept his cattle at night. He found it inconvenient to carry the farm litter to the site of his cattle shed. In this particular case he converted the farm litter into compost manure on this land itself. But he was sure the quality of this manure was not equal to what he obtained when the litter was first spread under the animals to become saturated with cattle urine before it was used for compost-making. The composting of farm litter on the farm itself he carried out in the following manner :

The available refuse on the farm like weeds, hedge clippings, crop stubble, spoilt straw leaves, etc. were collected periodically and formed into a heap. When the heap was sufficient to fill a trench, composting was done by spreading the mixed refuse in a layer 9 inches thick all along the length of the trench. The refuse layer was sprinkled over with a slurry of cow-dung or earth mixed with water, at a rate enough to moisten the refuse thoroughly. Then a second layer of refuse 9 inches thick was similarly placed and treated with slurry and the operations were repeated till the heap rose to a level of 2 ft. above the ground when the top of the heap was covered over with a thin layer of earth. After 4 months' decomposition, the manure was taken out of the trench and formed into a conical over-ground heap, moistened with water, if dry, and again covered over with a

thin layer of earth. After another 2 months, the compost was ready for application.

TOWN COMPOST

Gurcharan Singh said he was also interested in town refuse like *katchra*, sewage sludge and night-soil which could be converted into good manure by the method of composting. His interest in this manure was aroused by a progressive farmer friend of his who was farming near an industrial town. That friend had told him that the compost from town refuse was usually richer in phosphorus and potash than cattle-shed or farm compost. Since, however, town refuse contains a good proportion of undesirable materials like broken glass, porcelain, tiles, bricks, stones, metal pieces, etc. it was necessary that the manure should be properly sieved before being supplied to farmers. The main item of expense in using town compost was the heavy transport charges incurred in taking the manure from the municipal dumping ground to the farmers' lands, which might be 5 to 10 miles away. In the case of cash crops like vegetables, potatoes, fruits, sugarcane, etc. which required heavy manuring and where local supplies of cattle shed manure were limited and costly, it was found profitable to purchase and bring sieved town compost to the farm by motor trucks, even if the town is 15 or 20 miles away. In cities like Bombay and Calcutta, he was informed, the manure was taken by railway over distances of 100 to 200 miles, by the fruit and vegetable gardeners, who gladly paid the transport charges.

HOW TO USE COMPOST MANURE?

Compost manure, Gurcharan Singh was of the opinion, was best applied about one month before sowing, preferably at the time of the preparatory ploughing, so that there might be sufficient time for the manure to get into the proper condition before the crop germinates. As regards the dosage of manure he said it would vary no doubt with the intensity of cultivation and nature of the crop grown. Thus in his irrigated areas he found compost manure to be best effective with a dosage of 10 to 20 cartloads (5 to 10 tons) per acre. He had friends in rain-fed lands; with rainfall between 20·50 ins. they would add 4 to 8 cartloads (2 to 4 tons) of the manure per acre. In the dry areas where the rainfall was below 20 inches, they thought it would be preferable to reduce the dosage to about 2 cartloads (1 ton) per acre.

Like other bulky organic manures, compost manure decomposed slowly in the soil and hence Gurcharan Singh pointed out with apparent satisfaction that it had an appreciable residual effect even in the second and even in the third year after application. He had no doubt that in several cases, the beneficial effect seen in the second year after application was better than that observed in the first year. Hence he thought except in cases of intensive vegetable gardening, it would be sufficient to apply compost manure to the same field or plot once in two or three years.

Gurcharan Singh had also been to a specialist for advice with compost manuring. During the discussion the specialist had informed him that compost manure was in general poor in phosphoric acid as compared to its nitrogen and potash contents. Thus average farm compost contained about 0.5 to 0.6% nitrogen and 0.6 to 0.7% potash but only about 0.2% of phosphoric acid. Hence while applying compost manure to the field, better results were to be obtained by supplementing it with a phosphatic manure like bone-meal or superphosphate at the rate of ½ to 1 maund per ton of compost manure used. In addition to a phosphatic supplement, it would be found profitable to add also a nitrogenous supplement like oilcake or ammonium sulphate in the case of intensively cultivated crops like vegetables, potatoes, sugarcane or paddy. Compost manure, supplemented with extra nitrogen, phosphate and potash had been found to be specially good for fruit trees like bananas, citrus, mangoes, etc.

CORRIGENDUM

On page 20 in the June 1952 issue of INDIAN FARMING four captions are given below the picture of sugarcanes at the top of the article. Here only three varieties are shown and caption number four is a continuation of 3 and should read: 3. Thin widely differing daughter plants derived from mother Co. 421 without the help of a father.

GOLD IN OUR GARDENS

DURING January, February and March the gardens of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Union Ministers as well as those of their Secretaries, and those of the upper ten of Delhi Society are ablaze with the Kumquat fruits.

The Kumquat belongs to the orange family and is a very decorative shrub when kept trimmed but if left untouched, it looks even prettier—loaded with clusters of tiny oranges. The Kumquat is a quick-growing shrub and in a grafted plant it begins to put forth fruits from the second year. Its show season is in the cold weather but it has fruits almost all the year round. Scented sprays of orange blossom begin to appear from March, April and again in September, October ; Semi-green fruits in April, May and June are a joy to the housewife who delights her friends with cool, pale gold drinks flavoured with Kumquat juice when ordinary limes are selling from Rs. 3/- to Rs. 4/- a seer in the bazar. Kumquats are very juicy and more acidic than the lime but a little extra sugar with crushed ice helps to make it a deliciously cool and inviting drink. The Kumquats ripen again in July, August but the rainy season causes the fruits to catch disease and fall off.

Roundabout Christmas and the New Year, the fruits look like golden toy fruits. The Kumquat is of Chinese origin. Alladin, the Chinese boy, when he was sent down into the magic garden to fetch the lamp by his uncle, must have seen Kumquats and thought they were golden fruits! Children are tempted to pluck the fruits to eat them but garden lovers do not allow them. In private gardens, the owners with the exception of a few shrewd ones, do not realise the veritable store of gold in their grounds. Even the wily *malis*, who never lose an opportunity of exploiting the garden produce in their care, seem to have overlooked the value of the Kumquat.

Formerly many English women and now a good few Indian women have succeeded in making delicious marmalade from Kumquats. The colour and the flavour are both truly grand. A little experimental research by a Kumquat owner has resulted in most gratifying creations. She has not only made marmalade and fruit preserve but nice pickle which will keep long, squash, and out of the *residue* (pith and pips and skin) left after the squash has been made, even *better* marmalade. Some whole fruits lying on her sunny verandah got dehydrated accidentally, and shrank to a quarter of their original size, turning a reddish brown in colour and in taste were very like *amchoor* or tamarind and were actually less acidic than the fresh fruit.

Our fruits are expensive luxuries and are out of reach for the poor working classes. Their children suffer from scabies due to lack of Vitamin C.

If the " Grow More Food " campaign is supplemented with a " Grow More Fruits " effort round the villages with cheap, quick-growing and profuse, bearing trees, like the Kumquat, the Papaya, the Pomelo, the Sweet Lemon and Grape fruit, it will improve the health of the villagers and give them an extra income from the sale of surplus fruits. Moreover, these fruits are not attacked by parrots.

GOLDEN FRUIT RASGOOLAS

(FOR DESSERT)

Ingredients.

100 Kumquat Oranges.
3 Pints water.
3 Seers sugar.

Method.

Pluck oranges having half to one inch stalks and some with leaves. The oranges should be used fresh or as soon as taken down from the tree. Use scissors to remove the fruit.

Wipe each orange with a wet piece of cloth to remove dust and dirt. Then pick the fruits all over with a fine wooden or bone sliver (personally I use large Babool thorns) until they feel porous. Put them into a basin of water and leave one day. Next day change water and again leave for another day. On the third day change water again and leave for half a day (total $2\frac{1}{2}$ days). Have ready fast boiling water. Put in the oranges and boil slowly for 20 minutes or until they feel soft but should be whole. Now lift them up one by one and immerse them into cold water to make them firm. Leave them thus for 3 or 4 hours, then place them on a stretched piece of cloth to drain them of water. They can remain all night but cover to protect from dust.

Make up syrup of 4 lbs. (2/3 of the total quantity of Sugar) of Sugar. Cook in 3 pints of water (1 pint is equal to two tumblers) and boil for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile the fruit is put into a jar. Pour on it the hot syrup. Cover with a clean cloth and leave for 3 days. Then on the 4th day, drain off syrup, thicken by boiling, pour over the fruit and leave for 4 days. Drain off the syrup, add to it the remaining 2 lbs. of sugar and boil for 20 minutes. Pour over the fruit and leave 10 days. Boil up syrup again on the 11th day until it thickens. Add 2 dessertspoonsfuls of brandy to it and pour over the fruit. Try to roll the jar until all the fruits are coated and covered with syrup. Tie down the jar. This preserve will keep indefinitely.

KUMQUAT SQUASH

Required :

Fresh fruits of the Kumquat.
Clean granulated Sugar.
A glass squeezer.
A glass jug (An enamel or earthenware one will do).
One small enamel basin or a large deep plate.
One knife.

Method :

Wash and wipe dry the fruits. Cut into halves. Squeeze out the juice on the squeezer and put by the skins and pips and pulp on the plate. Collect as much juice as you need. Now strain the juice free of seeds. Now take a pan or Degchi (An enamel pan or aluminium or a Kalaid pan should be used) and put into it sugar and juice in this proportion :—

Kumquat juice : $2\frac{1}{2}$ of Sugar. Keep it or rather simmer it on a very gentle fire for a few minutes or until the sugar is thoroughly dissolved. Take down, cool and bottle tightly.

N.B:—The bottle should be well cleaned and sterilized before the squash is put in.

KUMQUAT MARMALADE

(From the Skins and Pulp)

1. Remove the seeds and scoop out the pulp from the skins and keep aside.

2. Take the skins and mince them very fine and boil in water until quite soft. (If a rather bitter flavoured marmalade is desired, then the skins should be boiled in water sufficient to soften them, i.e., no water need be thrown away). The boiled skins are drained of water.

3. Now take the pulp, the bigger pieces of which may be chopped up. Weigh Sugar against pulp, i.e., 1 part sugar : 1 part pulp (but a little more can be added if greater sweetness is desired). Dissolve the sugar by adding water sufficient to melt it on the fire. Now add both the mass of pulp and cooked skins to the sugar and cook or simmer on a gentle fire until the marmalade looks a clear golden colour. Remove, cool and bottle.

KUMQUAT PICKLE

Ingredients.

25 Ripe and firm Kumquats.
Red chilly powder.
A teaspoonful of *hing*.
Mustard seeds—a handful.
Salt.
Til oil (or mustard if preferred)
Methi—1 teaspoonful roasted and ground.

Put a little oil to heat in a Kadai or fry-pan, now put in a few whole fruits and roll them about (1 tablespoonful of oil is sufficient for 2 dozen fruits). When they feel softish—they may even burst a little—remove to cool them in a glazed earthern jar. When all are ready, sprinkle 2 tablespoonfuls of ground chillies, salt to taste, 1 level teaspoonful of *hing* powder, the same of roasted *methi* powder. Now heat 2 or 3 tablespoonfuls of *til* oil, add 1 small handful of brown mustard seeds until they crackle and pour it hot over the limes which should be halved or quartered before this. Shake the pot up and down and tie down the cover with a clean piece of cloth. Daily sunning and shaking up for a week would ensure its keeping good for a year. A clean piece of muslin dipped in oil should be placed on top to prevent mould forming on it.

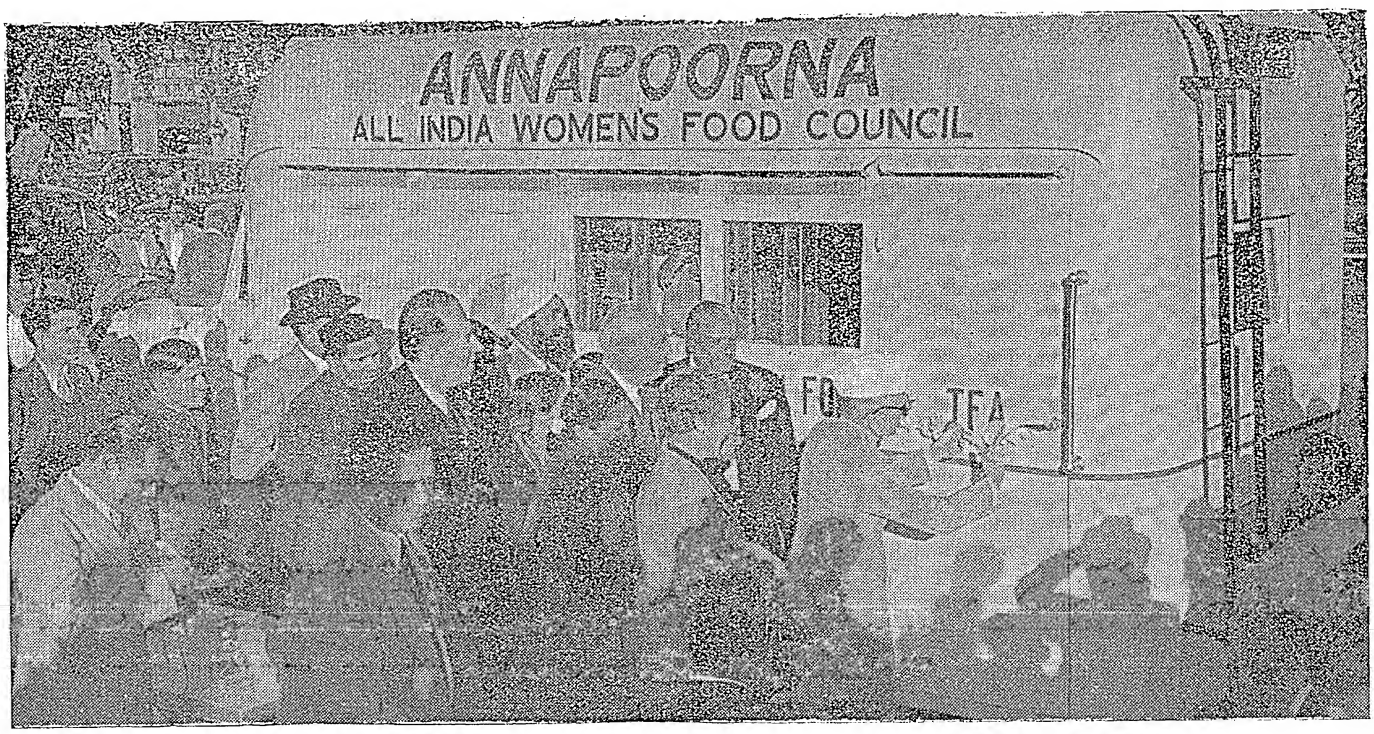
KUMQUAT CHUTNEY

(Fresh, Ready for Use)

Soak 3 dried Kumquats in water. Wash and clean a handful of Pudina leaves, Chop fine 1 large onion, 1 green chilly, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon sugar or a tiny bit of *gur*. Salt to taste.

Cut up the fruits. Grind them into paste on the *masala* stone or Sil. Add the rest of the ingredients and serve up with luncheon dishes.

—RAMPA PAL



"ANNAPOORNA" MOBILE CAFETERIA

The latest welcome addition to the activities of the All-India Women's Food Council in Delhi is the 'mobile cafeteria'. In practice it is really an extension—should we say mobile extension—of the Annapoorna. The moving cafeteria is fast becoming a familiar sight on the streets. People desiring non-cereal food have no longer to await their turns in long queues in the Annapoorna—now that it has been brought to their very doors. The moving cafeteria is thus supplementing the work of Annapoorna in popularising non-cereal food. Crowds gather round it for refreshments wherever it stops. For example, near the India Gate where the van parks in the evening, a large number of workers from offices nearby collect round it on their way home to be served with snacks.—HARKIRAT SINGH

A SIMPLE DEVICE FOR THE PLACEMENT OF FERTILIZERS

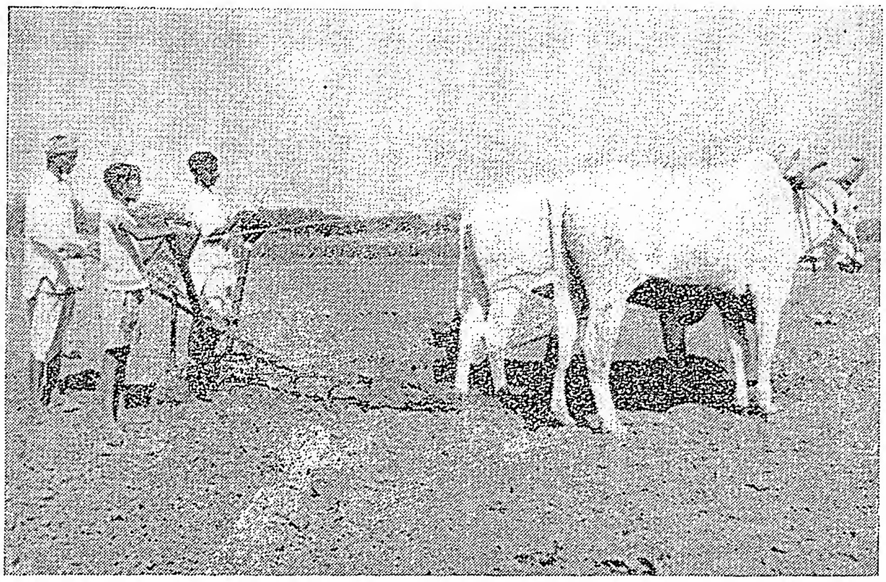
By **R. D. VERMA,**
Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

PLACEMENT of fertilizers, as against the old method of broadcasting, has become an established practice in agriculturally advanced countries as a practical means of economising in the use of fertilizers and their better utilization.

When fertilizers are placed in the vicinity of root zone of crop plants, they are more effectively utilized than when broadcast. Moreover, placing of fertilizers near the roof zones also minimises losses of nutrients, due to leaching, gas formation, their uptake by weeds, etc. are greatly reduced. Further the immobility of phosphates, when applied to soil, necessitates placing of such fertilizers as near the roots of plants as possible.

In India, economy in the use of fertilizers assumes still greater importance, because of the limited supplies and the urgent need to fertilize as large an area as possible for increased production.

While initiating experiments on the placement of fertilizers at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, it was found that the imported machines for the placement of fertilizers, besides being costly, were unsuitable for use in small experimental plots. It, therefore, became necessary to devise a simple yet accurate method to place fertilizers.



Fertilizer placement machine in operation

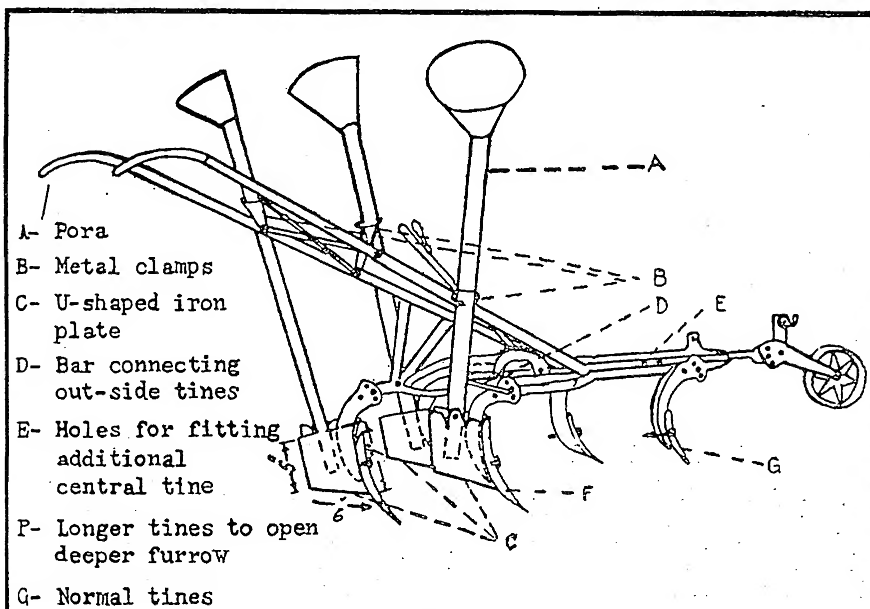


Fig. I

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

It was realized that any machine to be satisfactory for the purpose, must fulfil the following minimum requirements :—

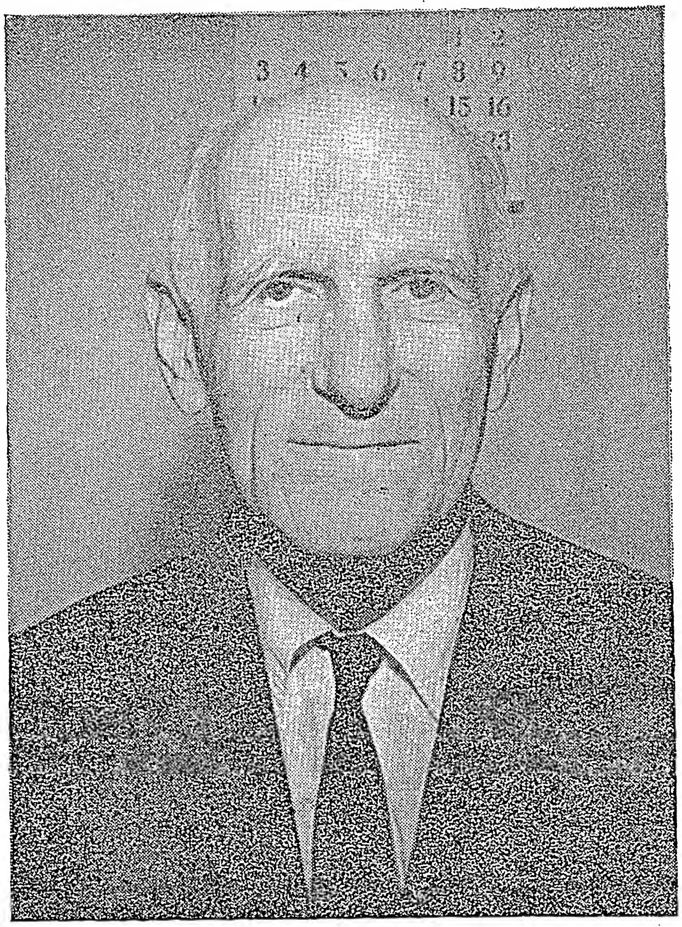
1. It should be cheap in initial cost, easy and simple to handle but at the same time do the job accurately.
2. The depth and distance between the furrows opened by it must be adjustable in order to enable the fertilizers to be placed at the desired position.
3. Seeds and fertilizers once placed in position should not get disturbed by subsequent operations like beaming.

On looking round for such a machine, it was found that the horse-hoe with certain simple modifications and attachments would satisfy the above requirements admirably.

In a horse-hoe tines are adjustable both for distance between furrows and the depth of furrows. It opens a narrow furrow which gets completely covered, and therefore the seed and fertilizers once placed in position cannot get disturbed by subsequent operations. In addition, it is an implement which is of great use to farmers all the year round for such operations, as inter-row cultivation, mulching, earthing up, etc.

(*Continued on page 31*)

LITERACY TRAINING BECOMES PART OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Dr. Frank C. Laubach

Dr. Frank C. Laubach will Lead Extension Drive on Country-wide Basis

By **U. N. CHATTERJI**

APART from food and clothing, another problem almost equally important has to be tackled in order to raise the standard of living of Indian villagers. This problem is to make illiterates able to read and write. Illiteracy is very widely prevalent in India. At present only about five percent of the people in this country can read and write. The importance of liquidating illiteracy is widely accepted and it is not necessary to underline the task.

It appears that the problem of solving illiteracy in this country is a gigantic one and has to be tackled on a country-wide basis. Added to this is the difficulty that a very large number of languages have to be contended with.

The all-round development of Indian villages has been undertaken by the Community Development Projects. The programme of work includes a drive for literacy as well. The work in this connection has been entrusted to Dr. Frank C. Laubach. With this assignment to attend to, Dr. Laubach becomes officially attached to the Community Project Administration on July 15, 1952.

Dr. Laubach has a very wide experience of literacy training programmes. In the past 30 years he has worked in 85 countries teaching illiterates to read and write. He has organised and conducted literacy programmes and courses of study in over 232 languages.

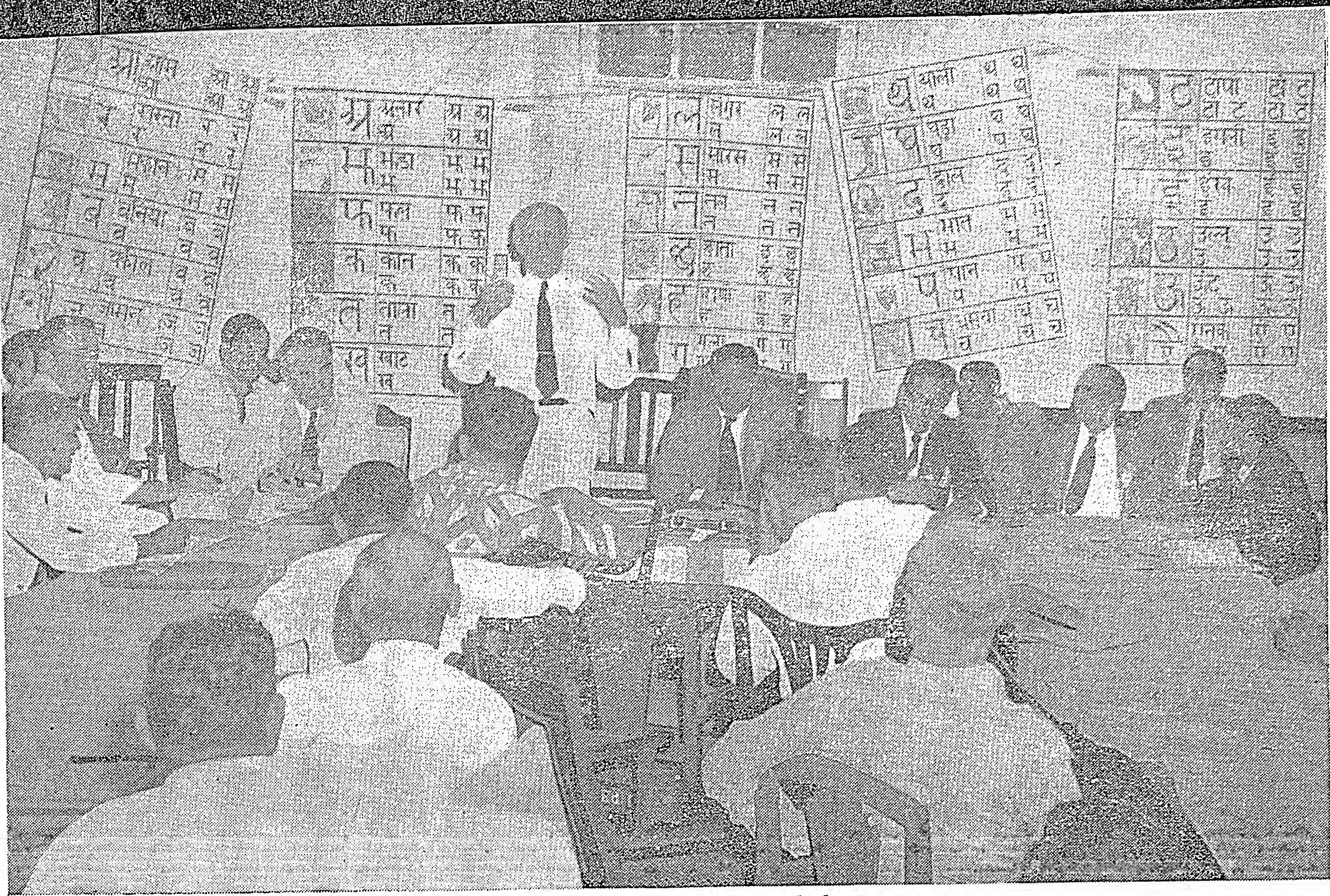
Dr. Laubach is no stranger to India. During the last 15 years he has been visiting this country off and on working on literacy training. His outstanding work in the field of organising literacy campaigns throughout the world has been recognised; appreciation from his Alma Mater—the Princeton University has come in the shape of an honorary Doctor's degree.

The greatest difficulty to be encountered with in a literacy programme is the unwillingness of the illiterates to learn. This resistance, research has shown, emanates from a widely-held idea among them that learning is a painful process and much labour and effort are required. Dr. Laubach's methods however make learning a pleasure to the illiterates who find that little or no effort is needed and that they acquire ability to learn rapidly. Dr. Laubach's methods develop their eagerness to get additional information, and even encourage them to seek recruits to participate in his educational programme.

Dr. Laubach's training method in adult literacy in villages consists of several stages. First the literacy training charts are posted in a convenient locality in a village and the villagers are called round and the charts explained to them. Literates are appointed to assume responsibility for explaining these charts to the villagers. These charts are very simple and very little explanation is necessary. The trainees can thus master the contents of the charts easily and without any strenuous application.

The next stage commences after the villagers have understood the charts and have acquired the sounds thoroughly. He is given a certificate and provided with a primer based on the knowledge he has already acquired and which he can read and understand with very little outside assistance.

In the third stage the villager is awarded another diploma or certificate after he has proved that he can read the primer already given to him. He is then given



Dr. Laubach explaining his methods

the second book. In the second book he encounters 400 new words. After he has successfully gone through this book the trainee will have a reading vocabulary of 520 words.

At the final stage the trainee is allowed to buy follow-up literature which discusses problems related to his farm and living. He is also asked to train others in the use of charts and ask them to co-operate in literacy training programmes.

Dr. Laubach will give short training courses in all Indian States except a few on adult literacy. He will also meet and discuss the subject of literacy training with experienced persons connected with teaching and education. He proposes to prepare literature which could be used in the programme of adult literacy campaign to be undertaken by the Community Development Projects. Earlier this year Dr. Laubach visited this country and was here for sometime. During his stay he prepared literature in Hindi language for use with literacy drive in Hindi speaking areas. He also undertook preparation of literacy literature in some of the major languages of South India. During his present stay he will devote his time to the preparation of similar literature in other major languages spoken in India. It is estimated that it will take approximately 130 days to complete the preparation of literacy training material in all the major languages of India.

In order to undertake the programme of adult literacy it will be necessary to train teachers for this purpose. These teachers will go through an intensive course that will give them the training to train others in the use of Dr. Laubach's material and his methods. The training of teachers is a very important phase of the programme because without sufficient number of available teachers it is difficult to visualise how the programmes could be carried through. These training classes for teachers will be held in all the principal States of India. One training course is scheduled to be held in Nilokheri from the 1st to 6th of August, 1952.

The programme will also include preparation of literature which could be placed in the hands of people who have already been trained to read and write. The follow-up literature can only be prepared by outstanding individuals who have received training as literacy teachers. The follow-up literature will deal with problems of rural life and be written up in a manner to fit in well with the original literacy training literature. The follow-up literature should allow the student to rapidly add to his mastery of words and at the same time acquire new knowledge necessary for him to function effectively in a progressive agricultural society.

Literacy training charts have already been printed in Hindi. A Hindi primer and a Hindi second reader are also available. These have all been done by Dr. Laubach and he has also trained some individuals using this material in Hindi. The Agricultural Information Department of the Uttar Pradesh Government is planning to prepare follow-up literature in Hindi.

Dr. Laubach has firm faith in his methods and believes that programme he is to initiate may be the beginning of an effort which might make India fully literate in about ten years' time.

KOSBAD AND ITS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

By **HOMI J. H. TALEYARKHAN**

KOSBAD is a place little heard of by urbanites. It was formerly a little Adivasi village, about three miles from the station of Gholvad 80 miles from Bombay on the Western (B.B. & C.I.) Railway. It is to day a fine Agricultural school in the state of Bombay.

It is beautifully situated—right on a 200-feet high hill top, visible from miles around. The air is cool and fresh almost throughout the year. It commands a wonderful panorama of the distant countryside, the hills, known as the Kainad hills around, and near-by Adivasi villages known as *padas*.

The school grounds stretch over an area of 260 acres. The students work in the fields and their classes are held under the expansive shade of gorgeously spreading trees. Students sit and study how to produce more so that the lot of the people may be improved.

Originally the school was one of the activities of the Gokhale Society of Education. Government took it over only in 1948. It is since then that it has developed into a regular agri-educational colony.

There is accommodation at present only for 50 students, mostly sons of farmers and agriculturists, who are admitted to the college after they have passed the seventh standard vernacular. The course extends over a period of two years, at the end of which they are given a diploma. Then they return to their parents' farmlands or they join government service. The former course is more encouraged.

The students do not pay any fees. Not only do they receive free tuition from five fully trained and qualified teachers, but also free lodging. On top of it, each student receives a stipend of Rs. 20 per month about three-quarters of which he spends on his food.

I saw the special building erected for the accommodation of the students. There are five large rooms with ten students in each. They have a kitchen and a mess room, spotlessly clean. All the boys I met were smart and cheerful and they hailed from all parts of the state. The staff are provided their own quarters.

Going round the fields and grounds of the school is a treat. There are all varieties of growth of vegetable, fruit and flower. Each species is marked so that students can follow what they are studying.

They begin their day early at Kosbad. They are up by 5-30 a.m. They bathe, dress and pray for an hour and are out in the fields by 6-30 a.m. before the sun is up. They work in the fields till 10-30 a.m. when they retire under the trees for their theoretical lessons. At these classes they are asked questions about the work in the field they had just been doing and they are free to have any of their difficulties solved.

At 11-30 a.m. they disperse for meals and rest and do not assemble again till two o'clock in the afternoon. For one hour they have spinning and are back in the fields till 5-30 p.m. Then follow games, prayers, meals — and a very enjoyable and hard-working day is done.

I saw them at work in the fields under the direction of the teachers, receiving practical training in improved methods of agriculture—nursery, horticulture, vegetable farming, compost-making and so on. They were so engrossed in their work and took so much interest in it that if I enquired about one thing, they would show me a hundred more beside it!

Near Kosbad are some adivasi villages—Bhonarpada, Liluckpada, Variapada, Zarli and others. Students of the school also go in to these villages and do uplift work among the villagers.

For instance, when I was there, they were busy convincing the villagers of Bhonarpada, only half a mile below Kosbad Hill, to cross Rhode Island Cocks with native hens. The school has undertaken to supply the big Rhode Island cocks to these villagers so that after the fourth generation, the poultry bred will be the large Rhode Island quality. The villagers sceptical at first, had eventually agreed to try it out.

But apart from these experiments, their more urgent need of proper water supply—they drink and wash from the same dirty pool of water—was being attended to by their being encouraged to dig wells from their own labour with all the rest of the equipment and material required for properly building the well supplied by the school. Besides once a year for four days, Adivasi leaders from surrounding villages, are called for a short course in community life and other improvements they could make in their village condition one such batch had just arrived when I was there.

A multipurpose society has also been started by the College at Kosbad. It is a small place, but it contains everything that the student or the villager might need for his daily requirements. The students themselves manage the affairs of the society.

In course of time, the Kosbad school expects to be able to stand on its own legs. From the sale of its produce, it has already started making about Rs. 30,000 yearly. And the figure is going up year by year.

This ideal institution however suffers from the absence of lights and a proper dispensary. Although a doctor does visit the place regularly, there is nothing available on the spot except first aid. No electricity is another problem awaiting to be tackled. Both are needed—and if a third requirement may be mentioned, a proper approach road from Gholvad. Though one or two bridges are in the course of construction, the entire strip of 2½ miles from Gholvad station, running past such an attractive countryside scene deserves, to be put in better shape.

THE MAN OF THE MONTH

(*Continued from page 5*)

3 or 4 days later by weeding. Between November 16 and 19 there was a second weeding and earthing up operations. As a preventive against the late blight disease, paranox was sprayed on the crop. Earthing had to be repeated in the first week of December, because rains had washed away some of the soil near the roots. Between November 19 and December 8, the crop was watered thrice, and from the end of February 1952 till the time of harvesting, the crop was watered three times with a lotion of compost. The crop was harvested on April 6, and the yield was 735 mds. and 24 seers.

I asked Shri Jaipal, "It is all very well to undertake this heavy manuring to win a prize, but is it an economic proposition?" 'Most decidedly' joined the father and son in unison. "If you give us a little time, we will give you the figures."

The tiny notebook was produced again, rapid calculations were made of the cost of manure, fertiliser, labour and seed. The result was: expenses Rs. 700, income: Rs. 2750. The net profit therefore worked out to over Rs. 2000/- an acre.

I asked the young champion if he could give me in one sentence the secret of his success. Jaipal thought for a moment and then said in deliberate tones: "My father's guidance, green manuring, constant supervision, good seed and proper irrigation". Brother Yashpal Chandra, who had meanwhile joined us, said half complainingly that the efforts of the officers of the Agricultural Department, who assisted the potato growers at every stage seemed to be completely forgotten. Perhaps there was something in this, but who could assess the value of advice, but all scales would tip heavily in favour of 735 maunds and 24 seers of potatoes.

After a heavy breakfast, we all moved to the family holding of about 40 acres, most of which is under fruit orchards. The area is well served by canal and tube well irrigation, and as I moved among the mango trees heavily laden with the famous 'daseri' and 'chaunsa' varieties, I saw the water channels meandering through shady spots and open fields, under *lichi* and *loqat* trees, and along banks of berseem and small papaya plants. A fertile land, and plenty of water has made the orchard a veritable gold mine for lawyer Bireshwar Chandra. No wonder he is credited with the saying: "I have five sons, four work for themselves; the fifth, my fruit orchard, works for me. On the last I pin my greatest faith, for it will continue to feed me, even if the others don't."

In the evening, before I finished my visit to the Bireshwar family, came the pleasantest part of my stay, when the whole family, particularly the women and the little children turned out in their best clothes, keen to be photographed. It was a great occasion and the young and old were determined to make the most of it.

One last question I shot at young Jaipal Chandra, as I sipped my third cup of tea: "What will you do with the Rs. 10,000/- you will get as prizes?"

Pat came the answer "Buy more land and more fertiliser. Good land costs about Rs. 200/- a bigha in Bulandshahr". It could not be otherwise: he was in the grip of the power of the land; what was he that he should presume to say it nay?

THE PLACEMENT OF FERTILISERS

(*Continued from page 27*)

MODIFICATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

For sowing the seed and drilling the fertilizers, poras (Fig. I-A). (metal or wooden tube with funnel attached at the top), of about 2-inch diameter are fixed at outward angle to the frame of the horse-hoe with thin metal clamps (Fig. I-B) so as to provide sufficient space for 2-3 men to walk abreast when doing the sowings. The metal clamps allow further adjustments in walking space to be made, by simply bending them to desired angles.

The lower end of the pora is bolted on to a thin iron plate (Fig. I-C) about 14 inches long and 7 inches broad — bent to the shape of a U. The U-shaped iron piece is then fixed with the open end of U facing backwards in between the frame and the tine with the same bolts which secure the tine to the frame of the horse-hoe. The pora opens close to the back of the tine and into the space provided by the arms of U. This allows the seed and fertilizers to be dropped in position before the furrow gets filled up again.

If the side tines are desired to be brought closer than is possible with normal adjustments provided in the horse-hoe, then the bars provided to adjust the distance between the tines may be replaced by a single straight bar (Fig. I-B) so as to fix the distance between the tines to the desired width.

Again when the seed or fertilizers are to be sown deeper than is possible with the normal tines (Fig. I-G) or the adjustments provided in the horse-hoe, longer tines (Fig. I-F) to open furrow to the desired depth may be fitted up.

With the above simple modifications, horse-hoe has been very successfully used at Indian Agricultural Research Institute for the placement of fertilizer experiments on such crops as potatoes, maize, peas, etc.

COST AND MANUFACTURE

The cost of making these parts in the Institute's Engineering Division Workshop amounted to Rs. 13-15-6. The cost of material being Rs. 7-15-6 and labour charges Rs. 6. The parts are very simple, any village blacksmith can manufacture them quite easily.

WORKING

Before starting work, the tines are adjusted to open the furrow to desired width and depth by usual adjustments. The seed and fertilizers are then dropped through the appropriate poras. When the fertilizers are to be placed on one or both the sides of the seed row, the side poras are used for drilling the fertilizers and the middle pora for sowing the seed. When, however, the fertilizers are to be placed in the same row as seed, the side tines are removed and another tine with the attachments described above, is fixed to the middle bar of the horse-hoe in front of the seed row tine (Fig. I-E). The fertilizers are then dropped through the front pora and the seed through the back pora or vice versa if the fertilizer is to be placed above the seed row.

Uniform sowing of the seed and fertilizers will largely depend upon the experience and skill of the person doing the job. Our experience has shown that a normally intelligent worker with a little practice can soon learn to do the job very satisfactorily.

HINTS TO THE FARMER

(*Continued from page 7*)

Time of sowing: For grain, both the crops, in Kharif, are sown with the break of monsoon from June to mid-July. Jowar for fodder may be sown under irrigated condition, from March onwards. Bajra for fodder is grown only in poor land and very deficient rainfall area, where *jowar* will not thrive well. Rabi *jowar* in South and Western India is sown from September to November. Timely sowing is very important. And as sowing period is limited to a few weeks before the break of the main S. W. monsoon it is very essential that the land be prepared quickly with the first shower of rain. Bullock drawn horse-hoe or cultivator will be of immense help in preparing the land quickly as it will cover 3-4 acres in a day as compared to .5 to .75 acres a day with a country plough.

Sowing and seed rate: For fodder, *jowar* is far more popular than *bajra* and is sown broadcast. Seed rate varies from 40-60 lbs. per acre. For grain, both crops are commonly sown by broadcast; seed rate being 16-20 lbs. for *jowar* and 5-10 lbs. for *bajra*. It is, however, advised that for grain purposes both the crops should be grown in rows 1′ apart and 6-9″ between the plants. As *bajra* tillers profusely, wider spacing of 9″ between the plants should be adopted. Row sowing will greatly reduce the expense of weeding, as bullock drawn implements can be employed instead of manual labour. Generally, no weeding will be necessary for crop grown for fodder but for grain crop 1-2 weedings may be necessary.

Varieties: The importance of variety has already been stressed under maize and you should take the earliest opportunity to discuss this and other points with your nearest representative of Agriculture Department. It is his job to help you and he will be happy to do so. However, some of the improved varieties of *jowar* and *bajra* are listed below:

Province or State

Jowar	Bajra
BOMBAY	
Nandyal, Bilichigan, Fulgar white, Fulgar yellow, C-10-2 Jowar-8, B. 53, Melandi-35/1	P. 207, 28-15
HYDERABAD	
Kharif varieties :-Yellow, No. 75, 99, Selection 1, 19, Imphi (for fodder) Rabi varieties :-Parbani No. 3,5,8,10, P. B. 4 R.	Kanpur local
MADHYA PRADESH	
Rabi varieties :-Ringni, Shaloo, Unarlhi, Hirve, Bodkhe, Wakde, Gondhala. Kharif varieties :-Soanar, 123A, Ramkel	
MADHYA BHARAT	
I. P. 9, I. P. 3, M35-1, Gwalior 12-2, 10-7.,	Gwalior 2, Gwalior 5.
MADRAS	
Co_1, Co_3, Co_4, Co_6, Co_9, Co_{11}	Co_1, Co_2, Co_3, Hyderabad strain X 2
PUNJAB	
No. 20, 21, 100, 263, 8B, 5T, 4011.	A $\frac{1}{3}$, T. 55, Type 11, 16.

Manuring: Generally, no manure is applied to these crops as they are mostly grown under *barani* conditions. Manuring is liable to give luxuriant growth while the restricted moisture in the rainfed soils may not be able to mature the crop. Under irrigation 5-10 cartloads of F. Y. M. may be applied with benefit.

Irrigation: It is very seldom that irrigation is applied to these crops, except when they are grown in small areas for grain. Where irrigation facilities are available they may be usually replaced by maize or some other Kharif crop.

Harvesting and after: For fodder *jowar* as well as *bajra* should be harvested when the crop is still green and the grain is in dough stage, i.e. in early stage of formation. Jowar should never be fed in young stage, i.e. before the earheads have fully emerged, otherwise, it may lead to Hydrocynic poisoning of cattle. The danger is still worse in years of drought. Jowar, if it has been sown early will give an excellent second cut and *bajra* will give two.

For grain the crop should be harvested when fully mature. In case of *bajra* the earheads mature irregularly and it will be necessary to harvest the mature heads in two or three lots.

Selection of seed: The same procedure as outlined under maize should be followed. In *jowar*, select normal plants free from disease bearing large size heads well filled with bold and round grains. In case of *bajra* give preference to long cylindrical well filled dense ears which mature at one time.

Pests and diseases: Although there are many diseases and pests of these three crops following few are the ones which are of serious nature. The most serious pests of these crops are the stem-borers. The young ones called caterpillars bore into the stem and cause the growing tip to dry off. In adult stage these caterpillars develop into moths. They can be controlled by the following methods:

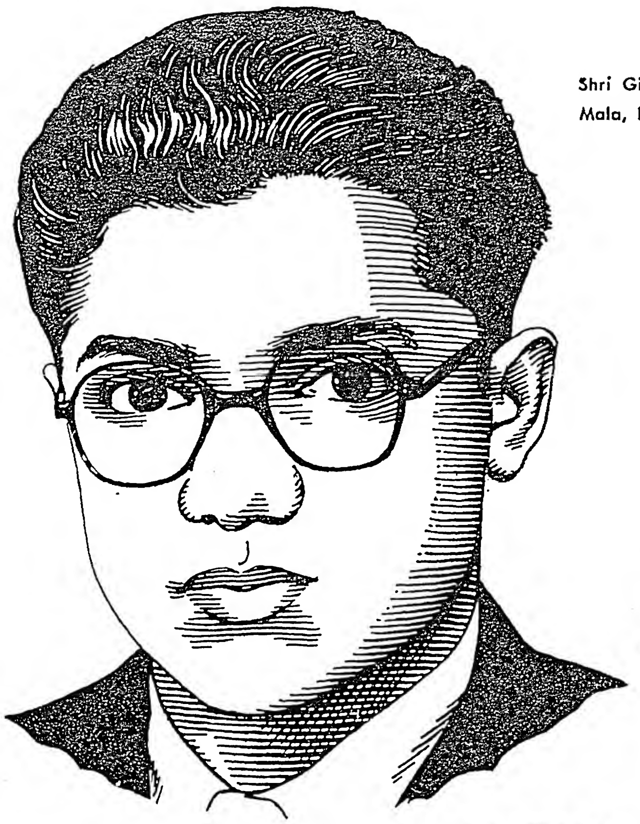
(1) By light traps. Put shallow basin or "tasla" on a raised platform 2-2½ft. high. Fill the basin half full with water and put a little kerosene oil on the top to form a thin layer. In the middle of this basin place a brick. At night, place on the brick a lighted hurricane lamp. Keep the lamp lighted for the whole night. As the moths are attracted by light they will swarm round the light and get killed in the kerosene oil.

(2) These borers also attack sugarcane. Therefore, as far as possible avoid growing these crops near a sugarcane ratoon. Also plough up the stubble of maize, *jowar* and *bajra* as soon as possible after the crop has been harvested.

(3) At the first signs of the attack of these pests, i.e. drying up of the growing tips of the crop, pull out the plants and bury or burn them. Further spread will thereby be checked.

Of diseases, the serious damage is caused by "smuts". Instead of the development of the grain you may find that the ear is a black mass of spores and no grain formation has taken place.

The most practical method to control these diseases is to treat the seed with some fungicide. Agrosan G. N. has been found quite effective. Thoroughly mix Agrosan G. N. at the rate of 3 chataks per md. of seed in a drum just before sowing. This treatment will not only control most of the diseases which affect these three crops in young and later stages but it has also been found that the germination of treated seed is better and the crop shows more vigorous growth. Adopt this fungicide treatment as a matter of routine. It will pay you.



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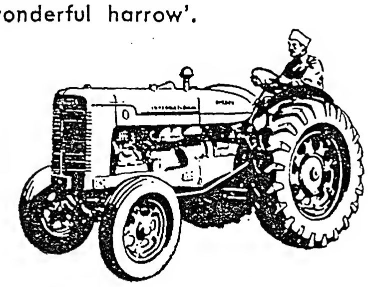

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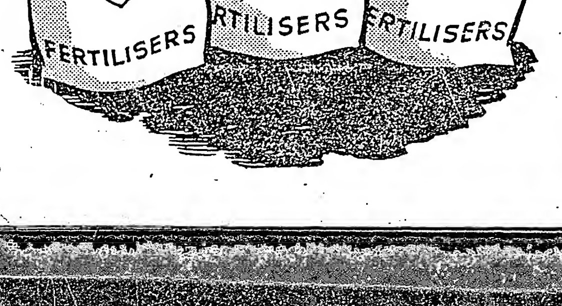

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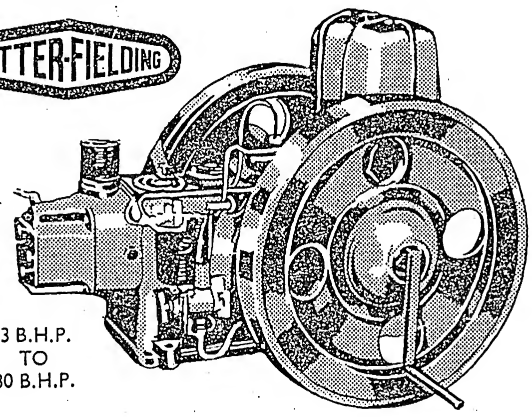

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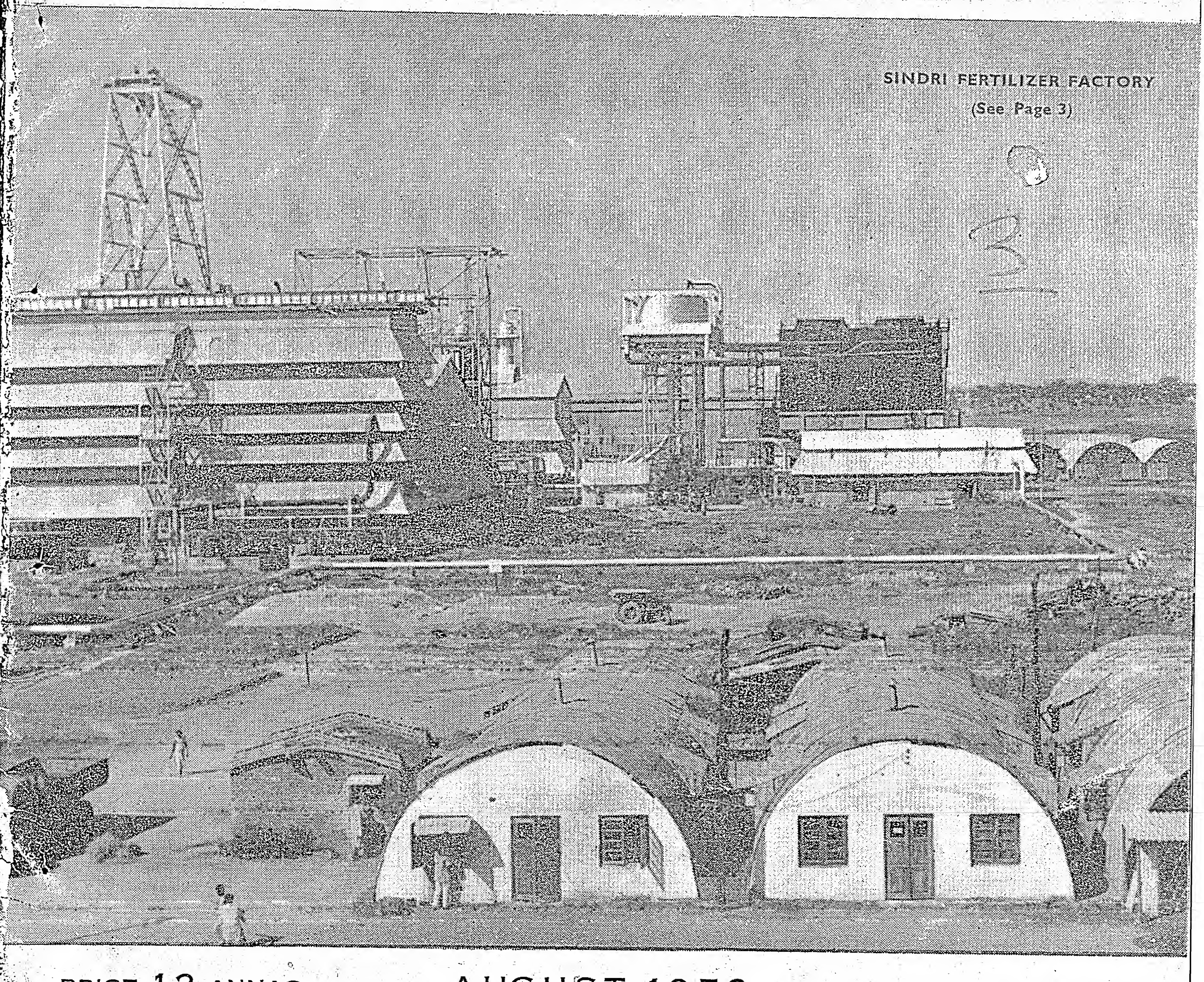

SINDRI FERTILIZER FACTORY
(See Page 3)

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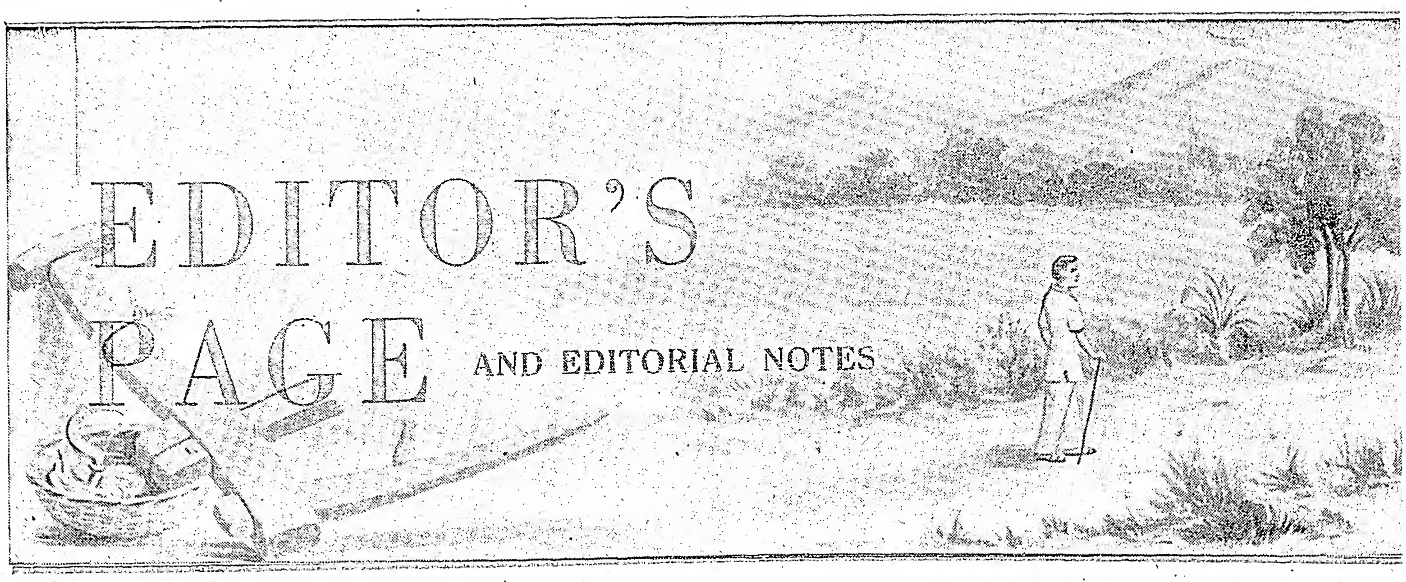


THE FIFTH PLATE

The Grow More Food Enquiry Committee has just submitted its report to the Government of India. This report was frank to admit the weaknesses in the Grow More Food campaign and to recognize the need for increasing efforts to meet the important targets of this scheme. The campaign is falling short of its goals. The Committee reported, " The integrated production programme has failed to arouse enthusiasm............The food problem is a much wider one than mere elimination of food imports. It is the problem of bringing about such a large expansion of agricultural production as will assure to an increasing population progressively rising levels of nutrition............The campaign for food production should be conceived as part of a plan for the most efficient use of land resources by the application of modern scientific research and the evolution of a diversified economy."

Perhaps, it was outside of the responsibility of this Committee to investigate the other side of the food problem, i.e., the geometrically progressive rise in the number of stomachs to be fed. We haven't met the food needs of our people by our domestic production. An increase in production will be needed, obviously, to meet these needs. However, a further increase will be needed each year to meet the demands of new population. It would be almost impossible to overestimate the importance now of educating the farmers on methods of increasing production and on the vital need for this increase.

In its report, the committee considered the place of the extension organization. The committee recommended that the village community can take up useful schemes of permanent improvements like excavation of channels, construction or repairs of village tanks .... on cooperative basis, and production of green manure, compost, improved seeds........The development of the cooperative movement for providing finances for joint ownership of agricultural machinery and for organizing supply services is also another important duty of the extension organization. The committee recommends that extension service should be set up all over the country within the shortest possible time—in any case within the next ten years.

Recent studies by the United States Department of Agriculture make our efforts here seem even more urgent. Scientists there claim that where 4 people are eating at America's tables today, there will be 5 in 1975. They claim further that producing at the current rate it will require a 100 million more acres of farm land to feed the extra population in the United States 25 years from now. It is obvious to these scientists that this much productive new land is not available, and that increased requirements must be obtained through increased production from the land now under cultivation. Americans in agriculture consider this a serious problem and are making plans for immediate steps to meet the threat of future food shortages. In view of the almost curious seriousness with which American authorities accept the predictions for 25 years hence, *Indian Farming* is preparing some estimates of India's requirements for 1975.

It is possible that this longer view should be given more emphasis and despite the current interest in growing more food, it is possible also that all-out emergency efforts should be made to correct the immediate situation.

The grow-more-food goals at present are realistic in that these goals aim at correcting an immediate and pressing shortage. But while we concentrate on the immediate threat, it may be well to prepare ourselves for confronting an almost impossible condition within the very near future, if current population trends continued here and in other food production areas. Look for more on this subject in an early issue.

AGRICULTURE IN PEPSU

PROPAGANDA WORK

Particular attention was paid by the district staff during this quarter to the eradication of *pohly* weed, which causes huge losses every year, removal of black smut, use of improved agriculture seeds, improved implements, formation of crop competition societies, repair of old wells, etc., etc. Extensive anti-rat campaign was also carried out in an area of 14,80,598 *bighas* or about 3 lakh acres in about 800 villages of different districts of the State.

An annual Agricultural Exhibition was held at Patiala from 16th to 20th March 1952 where subsidies amounting to Rs. 3,32,500/- for the installation of 380 new wells were given to the cultivators.

LAND RECLAMATION

About 212 acres of land were ploughed with tractors during this quarter and about 10 acres of scrub jungle was cleared of trees. Rabi crops were sown in reclaimed areas.

CATTLE FAIR SECTION

Twenty-nine cattle fairs were held during this quarter and income of Rs. 1,44,477 accrued to the State on account of these cattle fairs.

HORTICULTURE SECTION

During this quarter about 200 fruit trees of different kinds were budded and 6,670 plants were sprayed against mango hopper, meely bug, citrus phsylla and round pumpkin beetle in various orchards.

An experiment was conducted for the control of some most troublesome weeds which infest lawns and nursery plots. One ounce of Feroxone diluted with $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of water was sprayed upon the weeds. It was found that all the weeds except grass died within a period of 15 days.

ANNOUNCEMENT

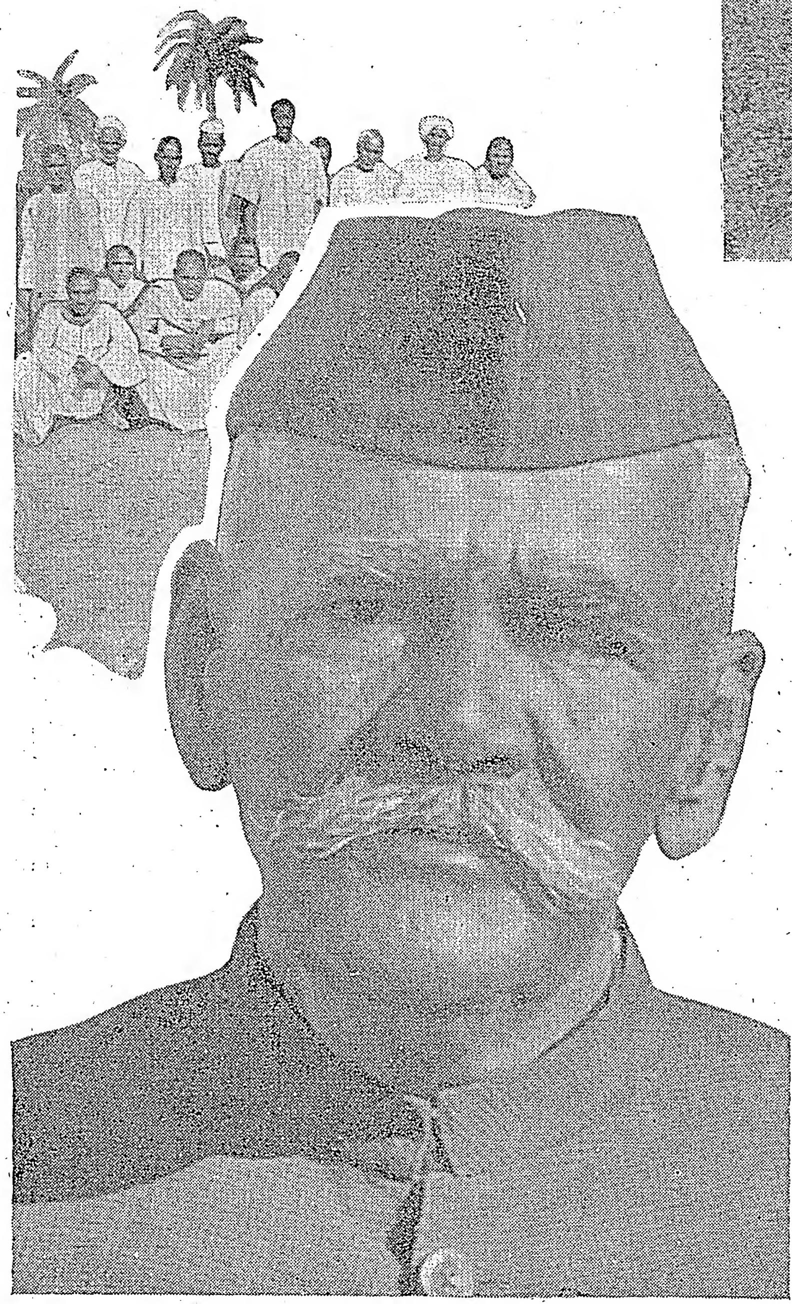
Prizes are offered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for suitable articles on subjects relating to food and agriculture published in newspapers. The rules governing the award of such prizes may be ascertained from the Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Jamnagar House, Hutments, New Delhi.

OUR COVER

SINDRI FERTILIZER FACTORY

The Ammonia Synthesis Tower with the overhead travelling crane for servicing Ammonia Converters. The Nissen Huts in the foreground are temporary departmental canteens

THE MAN OF THE MONTH



Mustard grows in abundance in Sugaon

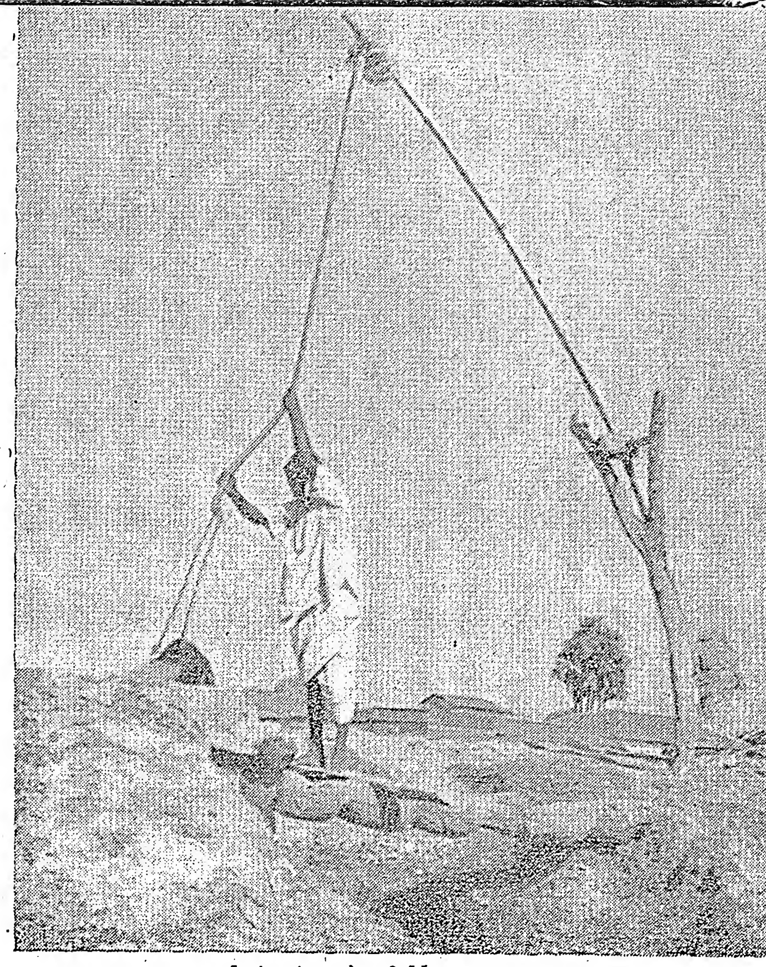
MEET Mohmad Ishaque

Md. ISHAQUE IS A RETIRED POLICE INSPECTOR AND NOW THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUGAON DEVELOPMENT SCHEME COMMITTEE

IT was a fine morning; the sky was clear and all around fields were green presenting a very pleasant spectacle to anyone who is accustomed to wake up seeing dreary sights in a city, hearing all possible jarring noises and generally living without a whiff of fresh air. A few months back I was told about a small village called Sugaon in Bihar which I was told was getting ahead, "doing what", was something I was to find out for myself.

I got out of the train at a way-side station. I was met by a number of villagers and told to walk along to Sugaon a village without any roads. We had to walk down the pathways made through the fields and it took us nearly 30 minutes to reach the village of Sugaon. As we were nearing the village boundaries, I saw an imposing looking old gentleman coming along swinging a stick and walking erect—so erect that but for the white moustaches one would think it was a walk of a much younger man. This was Mohmad Ishaque coming to do honour to the guests from far away come to visit the centre of activities reported to be something out of ordinary.

One of the biggest farms in the Development Centre



Irrigating the fields

MR. CHAIRMAN WAS A POLICEMAN

Sixty-three year old Md. Ishaque is a retired Police Inspector looking every inch a policeman who owns about 40 *bighas* of land. He has a small but well appointed house in the village and is full of enthusiasm for the planned development scheme—the scheme in which farmers themselves are interested because it is worked by the farmers themselves. Md. Ishaque is the President of the Sugaon Development Scheme Committee and his experience in handling people is standing him in good stead in getting utmost cooperation from his colleagues on the Committee as well as members of the general development committee. Aided by Sukhdeo Prasad Verma, Secretary of the Committee, Md. Ishaque is doing a very fine job of work which in my experience, is a unique experiment. In Bihar—noted for recurring scarcity conditions in the past—agriculture is taking rapid strides and Sugaon has been selected by the agricultural authorities for bringing within its orbit some 40 villages and 15 thousand people to provide organized irrigational facilities, experiment with manures, and with the cooperation of the farmers to set an example which would lead to all round improvement. Situated in the district of Zahanabad, Sugaon which is centrally placed with immense possibilities for improved irrigational facilities, has rightly been made the headquarters of the Sugaon Development Scheme which embraces a total area of some 12,809 acres of which Sugaon itself provides a thousand acres.

FARMERS GET TO WORK

In accordance with the aims already elucidated above, the agricultural authorities have very wisely decided to re-kindle the spirit of initiative which the farmers are accused of having lost. Under the Scheme development experiments are being carried out on the farms which belong entirely to the farmers. There are hardly any government lands involved. All the equipment, labour, and outlay is provided by farmers. The government provides technical advice and guidance, and also arranges supplies whenever necessary. We can see at a glance that whereas the per acre 1948 yield was in the region of 4 to 5 maunds in 1949-50, the yield had steadied to 8 to 9 maunds and now it has gone up to 15 to 16 maunds on an average. Before the development scheme was started there was no wheat in the area and it is only since 1948 that the area has been able to grow good wheat. Even potatoes give an average of 300 md. per acre and Md. Ishaque has taken interest in developing orchards, one of which belongs to him and provides a picturesque setting in farms which surround it. The villagers in Sugaon have been trying to improve irrigational facilities and among one of the major achievements is building of bunds on the Jamuna river. By their own labour and planning they have built a major bund diverting part of the waters for the Sugaon fields. However, they have a complaint to make regarding the supply of water from Sulenda bund which they say is not supplied to them in quantities required by them. Taking into account the entire development scheme of which Sugaon forms but a part I was told by Sukhdeo Prasad Verma that the Chariari irrigation scheme will also help them immensely.

THE AREA AND THE PEOPLE

Although Sugaon is the king-pin around which all the activities are projected, it appears that the village is entirely isolated and there is no connecting link with the main road. The Sugaon villagers have to walk about a mile and a half along side the bunds to reach the station or the main road. They are prepared to construct the road if material is available and technical advice given by the P. W. D. With 40 villages and 15 thousand people residing in the development area naturally the farmers are interested in education, and I was told that here they had registered some advance in that they have two middle schools, three girl schools, a high school, and some ten private schools catering to the needs of the villagers.

There are seven such pump sets that make irrigation easier

BACKGROUND

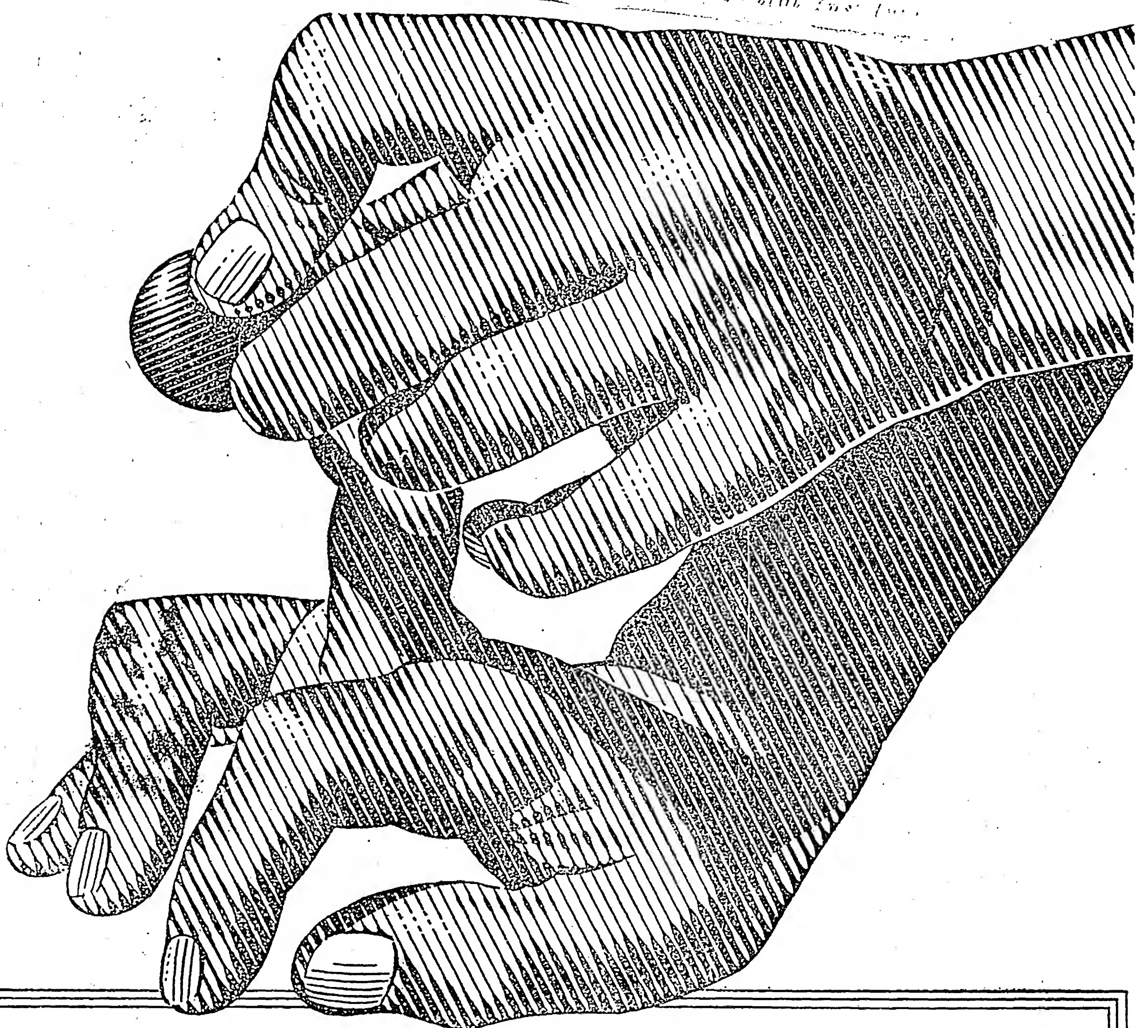
The main object of the development centre was to encourage the villagers to work on cooperative basis and help the agriculturists in achieving better yields and make available to them technical know-how about the most modern methods of agriculture thus enabling them to obtain better returns from their farms. When the work was first started in the year 1948 it was known as Sugaon Development Centre. Although now it is generally known as Sugaon intensive Agriculture Block. In this area crop used to fail totally before 1948 due to bad irrigational facilities and in other areas its average yield never exceeded 4 to 5 maunds per acre. In its four years of working not only the yield has been increased 3 times, but the villagers are now making huge quantities of compost, repairing tanks and wells and are looking after pumps, and arranging distribution of improved seeds. This has changed the entire crop pattern. The area has also taken to use of fertilizers, and thanks to an excellent irrigation system which they have built up, when the monsoon had practically failed in 1951 the villagers could be assured of three crops, in one field, by the use of seven pumping sets from 50 wells sunk in the area. Thus, thanks to the united efforts of the government and the people in which the people themselves are playing a major part. Sugaon has become a matter of faith with the villagers in the area and an inspiration not only to Bihar, but to farmers outside Bihar as well.

As the scheme progresses its energetic Secretary is convincing the participants of the benefits of cooperative farming and they told me that when I visit the area next there may be a cooperative already in action. Here is good luck to these progressive farmers !

—PUSHKAR OZA

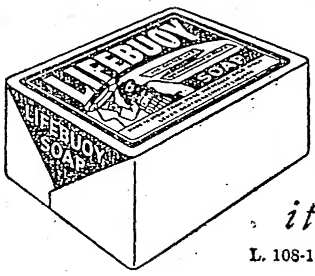
CORRIGENDA

July 1952 issue of the 'Indian Farming', page 28, para 1, line 6 from top, please read "At present only about 14.5 per cent of the people in this country can read and write, ...instead of five per cent etc., etc.



Playful hands get dirty . . .

and where there's dirt there's *Danger* from germs!



Wash often with

LIFEBUOY SOAP

it protects you from the germs in dirt!

L. 108-193

Hints to the farmer :

Wheat AND Barley

By **S. SEN,** Agronomist,
Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

WHEAT

THE yield of wheat is influenced to a great extent by the climate, physical character of the soil and diseases, especially the rusts. The short growing season obtaining for this crop in India, which still dwindles as one moves from north to south or from north-west to north-east, demands that only those varieties of wheat which would mature within this period should be grown. In selecting the variety, due considerations have also to be paid to the high and low moisture contents of the soil, rainfed or irrigated conditions, capability of the variety to stand manuring and disease resistance, besides the main factors of yield and quality of the produce.

GROW IMPROVED VARIETIES

Notwithstanding such difficulties, the problem has been handled with considerable success by the wheat breeders of this country. A large number of suitable types have been bred to meet the requirements. A list of the important ones is given below :—

Punjab, Pepsu, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.—Humid conditions : C. 250, C. 265 and C. 280.

In Sanand Taluka of Ahmedabad District successful sowing of wheat seed Niphad No. 4 supplied by the Agricultural Department was obtained during the sowing season of 1950

Rainfed conditions : 9-D, C. 250, C. 217, N. P. 4, N. P. 710 and N. P. 775.

Irrigated conditions : C. 591 (standard variety), C. 518, C. 230, C. 228, C. 409, 8-A, N. P. 165, N. P. 710 and N. P. 775.

Late sowing (irrigated) : C. 228 and C. 260.

Drought-stricken south-eastern districts : C. 591, C. 281 and C. 282.

Hilly tracts: N. P. 80-5, C. 253, Ridley and N. P. 770.

Rust resistant (partial) : N. P. 4, N. P. 12, N. P. 165, N. P. 710, N. P. 715, N. P. 718, N. P. 720, N. P. 760, N. P. 770, N. P. 775 and C. 253.

Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat.—N. P. 710, N. P. 718, N. P. 758, N. P. 771, 8-A, C. 518, C. 591, Pissi and Malwi types.

Rust resistant (partial) : N. P. 710, N. P. 718, N. P. 758 and N. P. 771.

Uttar Pradesh.—Hilly tracts (irrigated) : N. P. 4 and Padova I.

Hilly tracts (rainfed) : N. P. 4, C. 591 and Padova II.

Irrigated conditions : N. P. 12, N. P. 52, N. P. 125, N. P. 165, K (Kanpur) 13, C. 591, 9-D and AO. 68.

Rainfed conditions : N. P. 12, N. P. 52, N. P. 125, K. 46, K. 13, C. 591, C. 409, Bansipalli 808, Kathia and Bansi.

Other varieties : N. P. 710, N. P. 720, N. P. 737, N. P. 758, N. P. 760, N. P. 761 and N. P. 775.

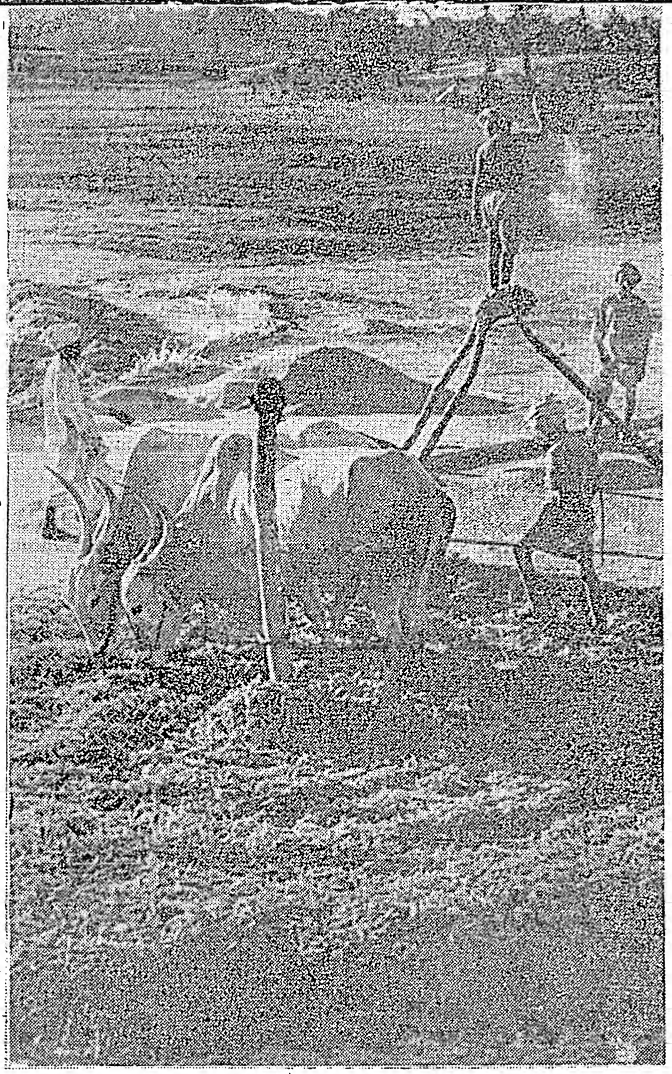
Rust resistant (partial) : N. P. 4, N. P. 12, N. P. 165, N. P. 710, N. P. 720, N. P. 737, N. P. 758, N. P. 760, N. P. 761 and N. P. 775.

Bihar and Orissa.—N. P. 4, N. P. 12, N. P. 52, N. P. 165, N. P. 710, N. P. 718, N. P. 737, N. P. 745, N. P. 758, N. P. 760, N. P. 761, N. P. 762, N. P. 764, N. P. 775, No. 310 and No. 319.

Rust resistant (partial) : N. P. 4, N. P. 12, N. P. 165, N. P. 710, N. P. 718, N. P. 737, N. P. 745, N. P. 758, N. P. 760, N. P. 761, N. P. 762, N. P. 764 and N. P. 775.

West Bengal.—N. P. 52, N. P. 80-5, N. P. 710, N. P. 760, Gangajali 50 and Jamali 24.

HARVEST TIME IN PUNJAB
After the crop is cut, women collect ears of wheat



A SOUTH INDIAN VILLAGE SCENE
The age old method of letting the oxen thresh out the grain with their feet is still in use in some parts of South India

Rust resistant (partial): N. P. 710 and N. P. 760.

Madhya Pradesh.—Irrigated conditions: AO. 13, AO. 68, AO. 85, AO. 88, AO. 90, A. 113, A. 115, and N. P. 100.

Rainfed conditions: AO. 49, A. 113, A. 115, EB. 76 and N. P. 4.

Other varieties: Howrah 116, A. 112, N. P. 52, N. P. 80-5, N. P. 111, N. P. 114, N. P. 710, N. P. 758, N. P. 771, and N. P. 775.

Rust resistant (partial): AO. 49, AO. 68, A. 115, No. 76, No. 148, No. 267, Hybrid No. 281, Cross No. 3712, Cross No. 3729, N. P. 4, N. P. 52, N. P. 100, N. P. 101, N. P. 710, N. P. 758, N. P. 771, and N. P. 775.

Bombay.—Gujerat: Dhola Katha, Rata Katha, Gulab, N. P. 4, Niphad 4, Wagia, Chandausi and Popatia.

Deccan: Bansi, Baxi, Shet Parner, Motiya, Vijay, N. P. 4, Niphad 4, Mondhya and Khapli.

Karnatak: Bansipalli 808 (Jaya), Karnatak local red.

Other varieties: Bansi 168, Bansi 224, and N. P. 710.

Rust resistant (partial): N. P. 4, N. P. 710, Niphad 4, Kenphad 21, Kenphad 25, Kenphad 28, and Kenphad 32. It will be seen that the list is a fairly long one and the local department of agriculture should be consulted regarding the best variety for a particular area.

GOOD PREPARATORY CULTIVATION IS NECESSARY

A very careful attention has to be given to the preparation of the seed-bed so as to conserve sufficient moisture for uniform germination of seeds. The initial ploughing should be done by a soil-inversion plough, succeeded by frequent ploughings and cross-ploughings by a *desi* plough (non-inversion), followed by beaming after each operation, till a fine seed-bed is prepared. Under rainfed conditions, the number of ploughings required is normally more than that under irrigated conditions. Where wheat is grown after a summer fallow, the initial ploughing should be given in the hot weather to get rid of the pernicious weeds.

There is a good scope for mechanization of cultivation which would result in better control of weeds, timely cultural operations, extension of cultivated acreage and lower cost of production.

DRILL YOUR SEED

The sowing should be done in rows, 9-12 inches apart, by drilling, deeper sowing (2½—3″) being resorted to under rainfed conditions and shallower sowing (1½—2″) under irrigated conditions. A more uniform germination is assured by drilling the seed than by sowing behind the plough.

SOW AT THE RIGHT TIME

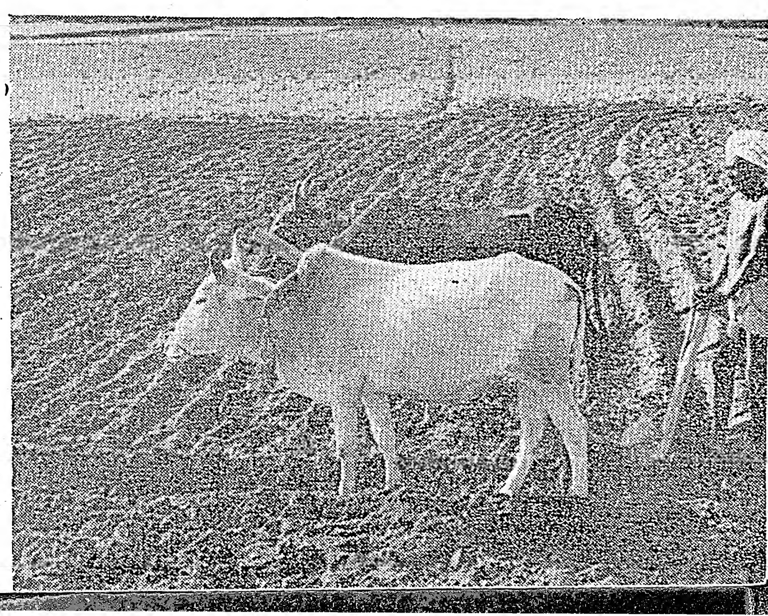
Early sown wheat, when the soil is still warm, is liable to be damaged by white ants. On the other hand, avoid late sowing which reduces the yield by the incidence of rusts and premature drying of the crop. The optimum time for sowing is from the middle of October to middle of November in the plains. In hills, it begins in the middle of September.

ADJUST THE SEED-RATE

The seed-rate usually varies from 20 to 50 seers per acre. It should be carefully adjusted to low or high rates, according to the rainfed or irrigated conditions, high or low tillering capacity of the variety, optimum or late sowing and fertility of the soil, in order to get the best result.

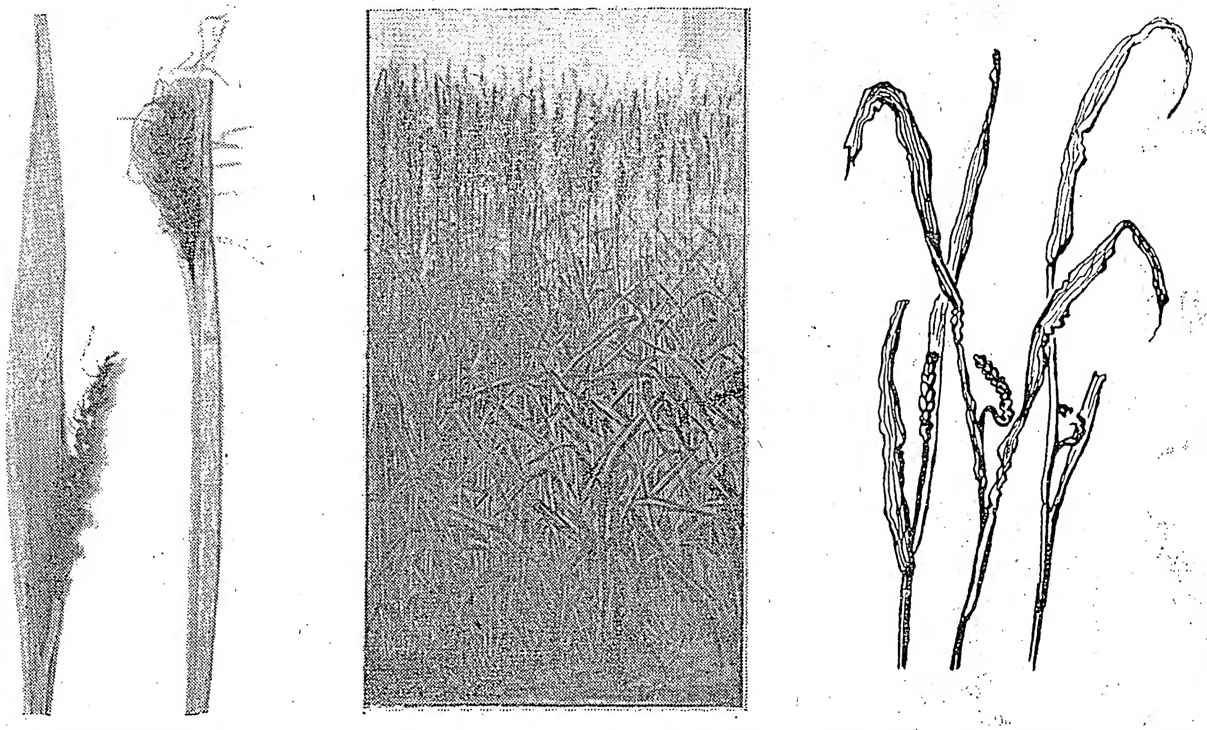
TREAT THE SEED BEFORE SOWING

Seed treatment (described later under diseases) should be considered a sound cultural practice which will enable the farmer to protect his crop against seed- and soil-borne diseases and thus give the crop a chance to grow and produce better than otherwise.



RURAL BIHAR
Bihar peasant and his pair. The entire Bihar countryside, specially in the plains, is intensively cultivated. The main crops are rice, wheat, pulses, sugarcane, oilseeds and tobacco

THE VARIOUS DISEASES WHICH CAUSE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE



Loose smut *Rusts* *Tandu*

APPLY NITROGENOUS MANURES AND FERTILIZERS

Considerable increases in the yield of wheat can be effected by proper manuring. Green manuring should be practised wherever possible. The organic manures should be applied 4-6 weeks before sowing, while nitrogenous fertilizers applied just before sowing for the unirrigated crop and half before sowing and half as top dressing with first irrigation for the irrigated crop. The manuring schedule for the different parts of India is briefly indicated below :—

Punjab, Pepsu, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.—
(1) Ammonium sulphate or nitrate of soda 21-40 lb. N per acre.
(2) Niciphos II 10-30 lb. N per acre.
(3) Castor cake 75 lb. N per acre.
(4) Farmyard manure 60-150 lb. N per acre.
(5) Green manuring with sannhemp or *guar*.

Uttar Pradesh.—(1) Ammonium sulphate 10-50 lb. N per acre.
(2) Nitrate of soda 12-18 lb. N per acre.
(3) Oilcakes 50-100 lb. N per acre.
(4) Farmyard manure 60 lb. N per acre.
(5) Compost 80 lb. N per acre.
(6) Green manuring with sannhemp.

Bihar and Orissa.—(1) Ammonium sulphate or nitrate of soda 15-25 lb. N per acre.
(2) Farmyard manure 20 lb. N per acre.
(3) Mustard or castor cake 20 lb. N per acre.
(4) Green manuring with sannhemp.

Bombay, Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Bharat.—
(1) Ammonium sulphate or nitrate of soda 5-20 lb. N per acre.
(2) Niciphos II 15-20 lb. N per acre.
(3) Farmyard manure 10 lb. N ammonium sulphate 10 lb. N per acre.
(4) Oilcakes 6-10 lb. N ammonium sulphate 10 lb. N per acre.
(5) Green manuring with sannhemp.

WEEDING AND HARROWING ARE BENEFICIAL

The crop needs weeding at the early stage of the crop to effect a good stand. For the irrigated crop, this can be done satisfactorily by light harrowing.

JUDICIOUS IRRIGATION ENSURES HIGH YIELDS

The wheat crop should be irrigated to ensure high yields. This should be done at the proper time, viz. at the tillering and full bloom stages, provided the winter rains are not adequate then. About 3-4 irrigations are needed in years when winter rains fail. Late irrigations should be avoided.

GROW WHEAT AFTER *KHARIF* FALLOW

A high outturn is invariably obtained when wheat is grown after a *kharif* fallow. Short duration leguminous crops like *mung* and *urid* for seed or cowpea fodder may be grown with advantage. As mentioned before, green manuring with sannhemp or *guar* has given encouraging results.

HARVEST THE CROP WHEN RIPE AND DRY

The crop should be harvested when it is perfectly ripe and dry. Harvesting and threshing should be completed quickly to avoid loss which may be caused by fire, rain, storm, etc. In order to maintain purity of varieties, all rogues should be taken out before harvest.

AVOID LOSS IN STORAGE

The wheat grain should be stored under perfectly dry conditions. Before storing, the rooms and old gunny bags should be disinfected with D. D. T. or Gammexane against pests of stored grains. Fumigation by hydrocyanic acid gas (being poisonous, this should be done by those acquainted with the method) is also effective for this purpose.

PROTECT THE CROP AGAINST DISEASES AND PESTS

The various diseases which cause considerable damage to the crop are : (*i*) rusts, (*ii*) loose smut, (*iii*) flag smut, (*iv*) root rot (*v*) bunt and (*vi*) *tandu*. It is recommended to grow rust resistant types of wheat, wherever possible, to escape heavy losses caused by rusts in India. The control measures against other diseases are as follows :—

Loose smut.—Solar or hot water treatment of the seed to be done in May-June and rogueing of the smutted plants in January-March.

Flag smut and root rot.—Seed treatment with Agrosan GN at 4 oz. per maund of seed before sowing.

Bunt.—Dusting the seed with copper carbonate.

Tandu disease.—Removal of diseased galls from seed grain by floatation before sowing.

The major pest of the wheat crop is stem borer. It can be controlled partially by destroying the affected plants. White ants which attack the wheat plant in its early stage can be controlled by irrigation.

BARLEY

The area under barley cultivation is concentrated in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and the Punjab owing to climatic limitations. This crop is usually grown in fields having light soil and lacking in irrigational facilities, where wheat cannot be raised successfully. Given proper attention in respect of introducing improved varieties, level of farming (including irrigation) and control of diseases, the yield of barley can be enhanced considerably.

GROW IMPROVED VARIETIES

Numerous high yielding, disease resistant varieties of barley have been evolved for different tracts. A list of more promising ones is given below :—

Punjab, Pepsu, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.—T. 4, T. 5, T. 152, T. 155-B and N. P. 13.

T. 4 and T. 5 are also suitable for malting and brewing purposes.

Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat.—T. 4, T. 5, and N. P. 13.

Uttar Pradesh.—Unirrigated : K (Kanpur) 251.

Irrigated : 300 A.

Other varieties : N. P. 21, T. 20, K. 74, K. 84, K. 85, K. 86, K. 94, K. 95, K. 285 and K. 259.

K. 251 is also good for malting purpose.

Bihar & Orissa.—N. P. 21.

West Bengal.—N. P. 21.

(*Continued on page 22*)

"Grow Your Own Food"

RAVALGAON'S UNIQUE EXPERIMENT IN CO-OPERATIVE FARMING AND SELF HELP

By **GUNDU RAO**

IT is common knowledge and perhaps universal experience that the greatest problem facing our country today is food shortage. Several parts of the country are threatened with famine and starvation in spite of the 'grow more food' campaign and the added imports. Valuable foreign exchange which could be utilized for various nation building activities is being freely spent to avert the crisis threatening the country.

The President's garden and those of the Governors are brought under the plough. The Premier often appeals to the people to plant food crops in their gardens and even in tin pots on roofs.

RAVALGAON

In spite of the best efforts the workers at Ravalgaon could not get their food requirements. Such grains as could be obtained were hopelessly inadequate and of very poor quality. The workers found it difficult to leave their work and move out hunting for food in the villages. The position became serious and many of the workers and their families were starving. Efficiency fell falling and the situation became alarming.

NEW EXPERIMENT

The situation depicted above demanded a solution. Production of more food somehow was the only solution. Sufficient land was available, but the means and manual effort were lacking. It was obvious that what was required to produce more food was human effort. The food position was so serious that the workers were prepared to work during their spare hours and on holidays and devote all their available extra effort if, by that, their food problem could at least be partially solved. What was required was to work a scheme of food production utilizing this extra effort.

The Scheme that was evolved consisted of a voluntary cooperative land army of workers at Ravalgaon. This army of workers was to take available land that would otherwise be fallow, plough it, manure it and do all the other operations of sowing, weeding, watching, irrigating, harvesting and finally threshing the crop. Such produce as would result was to be equally distributed among the members of the team.

MANAGEMENT SUPPORTS THE SCHEME

The management of the Ravalgaon Sugar Farm Ltd. have from

Members harvesting the crop

Members separating ear-heads

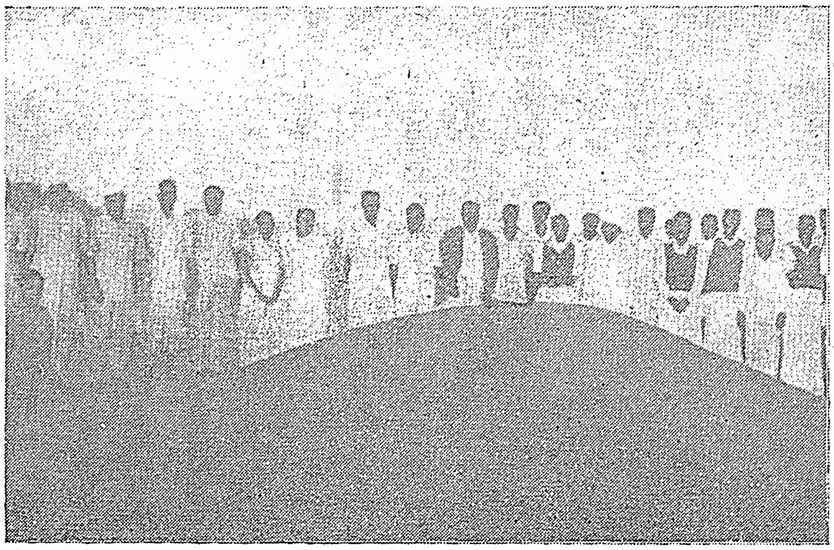
the beginning appreciated the difficult food position at Ravalgaon, and have helped the workers in many ways. When, therefore, the above scheme of cooperative effort and self help was put up before the Director, it won his appreciation and full support. It was his experience that in a condition of food scarcity, mere increasing of wages or allowances will not be of real help to the workers, but would on the contrary increase the level of prices in the locality. He, therefore, appreciated that this scheme would give the workers real relief in their food requirements.

THE GOVERNMENT AGREES

In view of the existing levy system of Government, the workers entertained the fear that at the end of their efforts the grain produced by them would be taken away under levy by the Government. It was, therefore, necessary to get an assurance from the Government that this extra production by the workers would be allowed to be used by the workers for their families. It was explained to the Government that this scheme was new in so far as it involved productive effort from a worker to increase food production quite apart from his normal productive effort in the factory. The best incentive to a worker, who is facing starvation in spite of his normal work is to assure him that this extra effort will give him the food he is so much in need of. It is gratifying to record that the Government appreciated the importance of this new experiment and readily agreed to allow the workers the benefits of their produce only on one condition that so long as their produce lasts, the workers will not get any Government supplies. This was quite satisfactory an assurance to the workers to go ahead with their productive work.

THE TEAM IS FORMED

For carrying out this experiment a team of 105 members was formed in the first instance. The team consisted of people from all ranks of workers, e.g., the Chief Chemist, Farm Manager, Accountant, Engineers, Chemists, Office Clerks, Supervisory staff and labour on the factory and farm. The pay scales of the staff were between Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 45 p.m. Though there were more members willing to join the team, it was restricted as the experiment was the first of its kind. Though the team consisted of members drawn from various ranks in the factory, they were all equal as farm workers in the field. All types of work were done by the lowest as well as the highest.



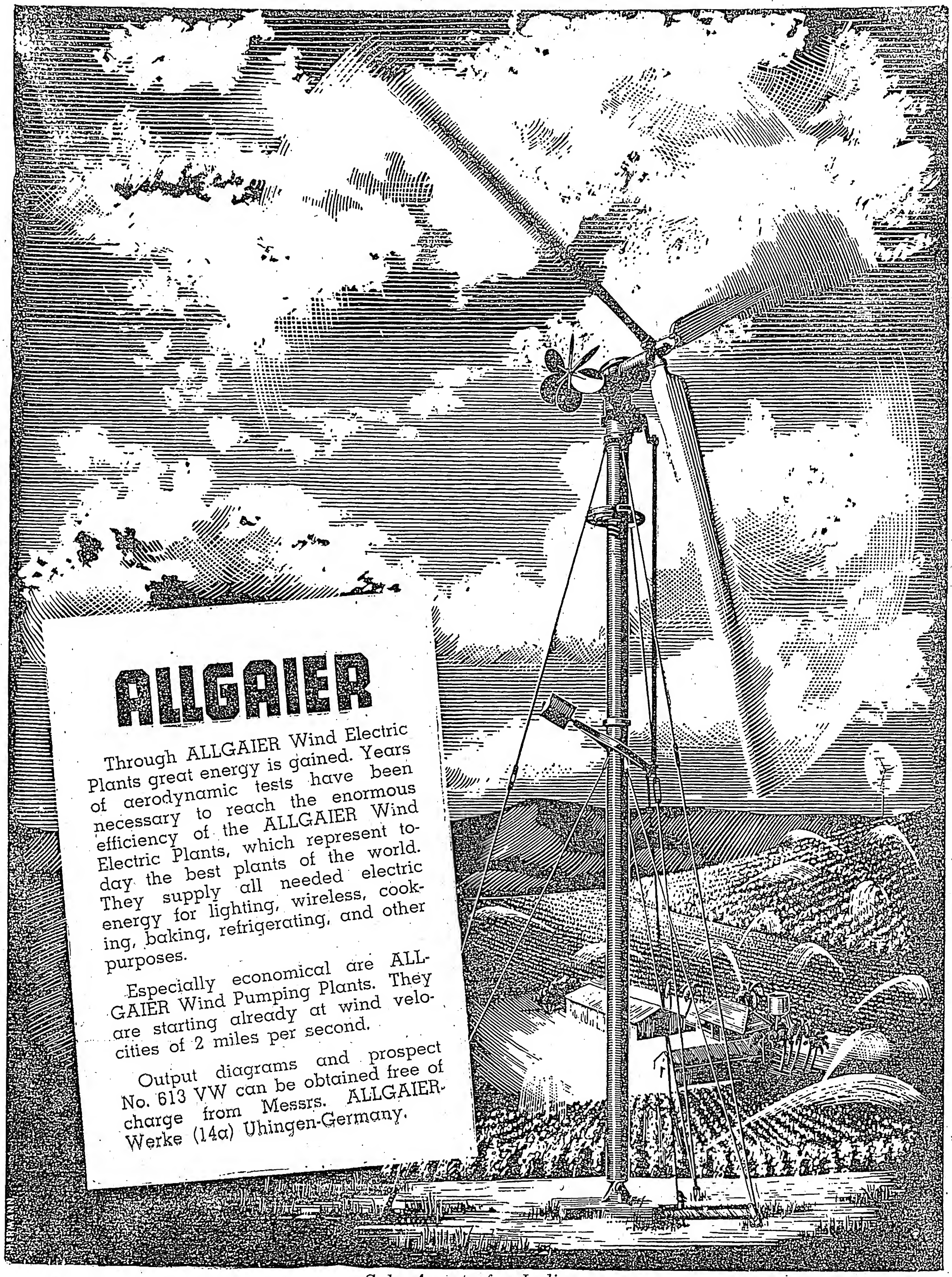
Heap of Bajri grain produced

Some visitors to the cooperative farm.

THE SCHEME IS PUT INTO OPERATION

The cooperative team took from the management 68 acres of land. Of this 62.1/2 acres were arranged for *bajri* and 5.1/2 acres for *kulti*. The operations were started sometime in July, 1951. The preparation of the land, sowing, weeding, manuring, watering, watching the crop, harvesting, stacking, threshing, separating and cleaning the corn, bagging and distribution were all done by the members of the team from the beginning to the end. The area under cultivation was divided into convenient blocks and the team sub-divided into groups, each group being given charge of a block. It was the responsibility of each group to do the work entrusted to them and a healthy spirit of cooperative and productive work developed. The members actually enjoyed the work and obviously there was a universal feeling of improved health

(*Continued on page 24*)



Sole Agents for India :

MESSRS. HANSA ENGINEERING COMPANY,

Wadia, Charity Bldg., 12, Bell Lane, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Bombay-1, India.

VILLAGE EXTENSION WORK

By **DOUGLAS ENSMINGER**

(Continued from July Issue)

RESULT DEMONSTRATION

The village extension worker who takes the time to organize a number of well planned result demonstrations for each practice being recommended in the village will be a wise village worker. A result demonstration is local proof that the recommended practice will work in the village and that village people can do it and profit from the practice.

Strong Points

1. Furnishes local proof of the desirability of establishing a recommended practice.
2. Is an effective method for introducing a new project.
3. Appeals to the eye and effective in concerning those who question the practice.
4. Provides a good source of information for meetings, news items, pictures, radio talks, etc.
5. Furnishes cost data and other basic information of use in revising the programme.
6. Yields a high rate of "takes" to "exposures."
7. Aids in developing local leadership.

Limitations

1. Finding a satisfactory demonstrator is often difficult.
2. Sometimes arouses jealousy of other farmers because of the number of visits of the agent to the cooperating farmer.
3. Affected by many un-controllable factors such as weather.
4. Lessens the effectiveness of other extension methods when unsuccessful.
5. Is not adaptable to many kinds of subject matter.
6. Requires considerable time to complete and to make results available after completion of demonstration.
7. Requires a relatively large expenditure per practice changed.

Tips which will be helpful in using the result demonstration

1. Do not attempt to discover new truths, but rather to prove the adaptability to local situations of those discoveries already made by research agencies.
2. Use in teaching certain phases of subject matter which do not lend themselves well to other methods.
3. Use local illustrations of good practices rather than result demonstrations whenever possible in order to save time and extension effort.
4. Place emphasis on quality of the demonstration rather than on the number of demonstrations conducted.
5. Do not repeat demonstrations needlessly.
6. Plan the project to prove or illustrate a definite practice or series of practices recommended for adoption by the community.
7. Obtain cooperatively minded, reliable demonstrator, located on a well-travelled highway.
8. Obtain new demonstrators from time to time.
9. Have the demonstration of sufficient size to command respect.
10. Mark the demonstration as soon as results are evident.
11. Insist that definite and detailed records, including costs, be maintained.
12. Hold meetings at demonstrations to study progress and results, and to disseminate information.
13. Use material from result demonstrations in connection with meetings, newsletters, pictures, radio talks, etc.
14. Analyze the reasons for failure of a demonstration and use results for teaching purposes, relating the causes to the failure.

Note : The wise village worker will organize tours to assure as many people as possible with all the demonstration.

PERSONAL VISITS WITH VILLAGERS

Personal Visits to the villagers farm and home is a very useful method in getting acquainted and gaining the confidence of the people.

Strong Points

1. Gives village worker first-hand information regarding village problems and activities.
2. Develops goodwill.
3. Establishes confidence in village worker.
4. Contributes to selection of better leaders and relations.
5. Stimulates interest and increases effectiveness of Government services and villagers.
6. Furnishes material for news service.
7. High ratio of "take" to "exposure.".

Limitations

1. Heavy consumer of village worker's time which limits influence.
2. Limited contact compared with certain other methods.
3. It is not always possible to make the visit at an opportune time of day.
4. Neighbours not visited may be disappointed and accuse village worker of favouritism.
5. Tendency to visit some homes and farms repeatedly.

Some suggestions and tips about use of personal visits

1. Have a definite purpose for the visit.
2. Scatter visits to more and different farms, including all income groups, families with children, and all parts of the village.
3. Be considerate of time of the farmer and his family.
4. Use visit to reinforce other methods.
5. Use visit to reach those who are difficult to reach with other methods.

6. Arrange a schedule of visits to save time and expense.
7. Leave clear impression of the object of your visit.
8. If visit is a service to the family, it should also be made educational.

GENERAL MEETINGS

To effectively reach and serve the largest number of people, village extension workers must utilize to the maximum general meetings as a method.

Strong Points

1. Reaches large numbers of people.
2. Adapted to practically all lines of subject matter.
3. Make high quality programme practicable and financially possible because a relatively large group is reached.
4. Affords opportunity for discussion and questions.
5. Facilitates action through group psychology.
6. Promotes personal acquaintance between village worker and people.
7. Provides change in environment and worth-while social contacts.
8. Yields high ratio of "takes" to "exposures."
9. Accomplishes change in practice at low cost.
10. Serves as news-creating agency and thereby stimulates publicity.

Limitations

1. Meeting place and facilities not always adequate.
2. Circumstances beyond control of village worker, such as conflicting attractions and weather, often result in small attendance.
3. Subject matter frequently difficult to present because of mixed group.
4. Teaching value minimized because of some members of audience are not receptive.
5. Amount of night work required of village worker is often excessive.
6. Meetings which are poorly arranged or conducted may have far-reaching unfavourable effects.

Suggestions for Use

1. Hold more meetings in daytime when practicable to reduce number of evening meetings.
2. Avoid conflict with competing attractions and rush periods of farm work.
3. Select meeting place which will provide suitable lighting, seating arrangement, heat, ventilation and other necessary facilaties.
4. Hold meeting within convenient distance of those expected to attend.
5. Plan meeting early in order that preliminary arrangements may be made and adequate publicity may be given.
6. Announce meeting and other methods to assure all interested people will know of meeting, circular letters, local leaders.
7. Encourage participation of local people in arrangements and programme.
8. Inform speaker regarding local conditions, and suggest subject matter be adapted to local needs.
9. Conduct meeting in accordance with a definite, well-organised plan:
   (a) Start promptly and close on time.
   (b) Focus attention on central theme.
   (c) Permit discussion yet move progressively toward desired action.
   (d) Use appropriate illustrative material.
   (e) Take advantage of group psychology.
   (f) Employ appeals that arouse interest, create desire, and stimulate action.
   (g) Insure definite action while interest is at height.
10. Arrange for suitable follow-up work, including publicity about the meeting held.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

The effectiveness of the village extension worker will be multiplied by the number of non-paid voluntary villagers who can be trained and guided in assuming numerous local leadership responsibilities.

Advantages

1. Local leaders themselves can better explain many needs and improved practices to villagers.
2. Develops abilities of leaders' produces self-confidence and satisfaction.
3. Provides permanent leader in the village who is local authority on subject.
4. The good standing of village leaders gives prestige of village extension work.
5. People ordinarily accept a theory best from a local person who has given it a practical test.
6. Local leadership developed through extension carries over into other village activities.
7. Increases the number of village contacts and makes possible influencing more people.
8. Leaders defend village work against criticism and bring about a more favourable attitude toward the work.
9. Saves time of village worker.
10. Leaders speak in the language of local people.
11. Adds strength to village programme, placing part of responsibility for success on the village.

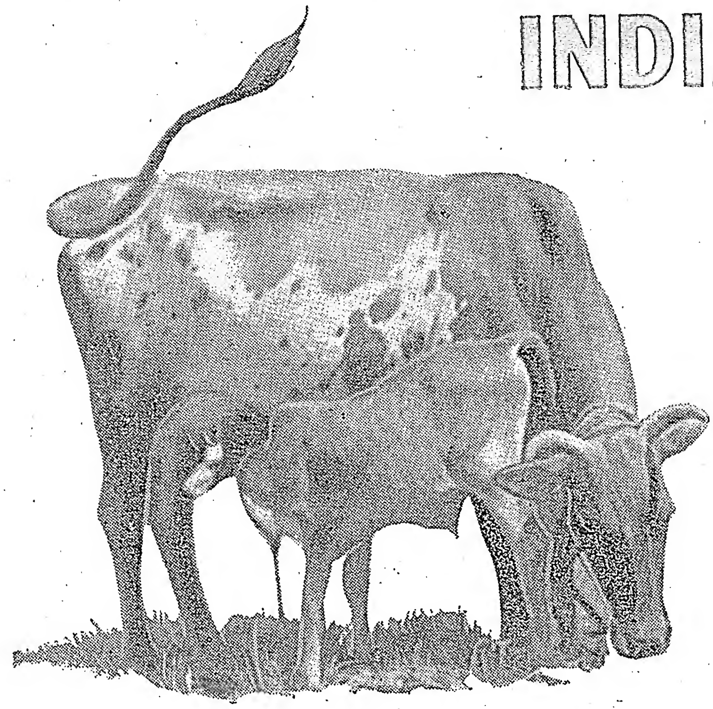
Limitations

1. Possible difficulties to overcome:
   (a) Local leaders may give wrong interpretation.
   (b) Local leaders may introduce own opinions.
   (c) Local leaders may not be good teachers.
   (d) Local leaders may not be able to spare amount of time required to receive adequate training.
   (e) Followers may object, wishing first-hand information from specialist.
2. Requires time to locate and train leaders.
3. Village worker's contacts may become limited, if he continues to train the same leaders.
4. Local leadership may be costly in proportion to results.
5. Local leaders may use prestige for personal gain.
6. The most difficult teaching job is left to local leaders who are not so well trained as agents and specialists.

(*Continued on page 32*)

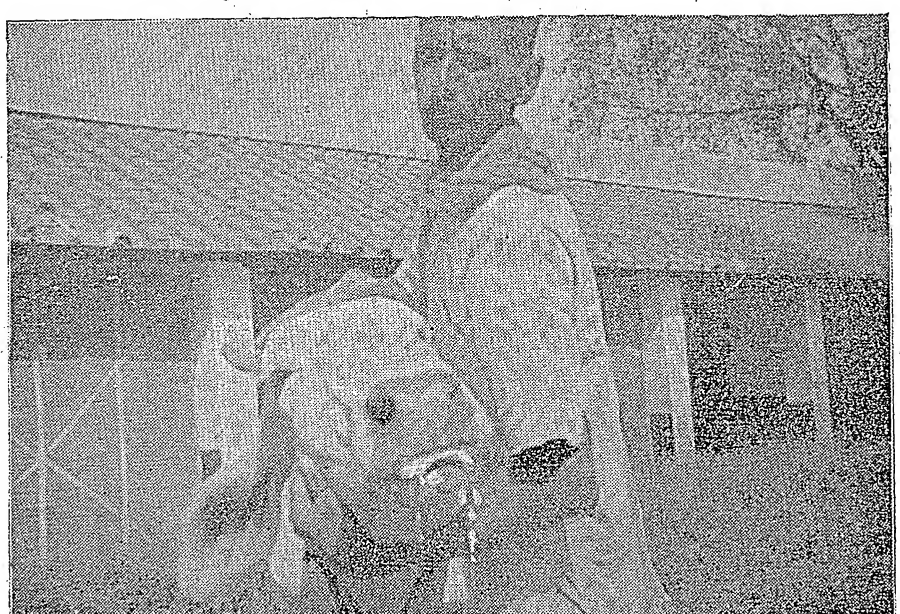
FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE IN INDIAN CATTLE

By **A. C. MATHUR**



FOOT and Mouth Disease which attacks 3.5 lakh animals and is responsible for the loss of about 2.5 crores of rupees annually is no doubt one of the most serious scourges of cattle in this country. Chiefly affecting cattle and buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs are however not immune to its attacks. Human beings too are susceptible but to a lesser degree. Thus in a way it is important from public health point of view as well.

The disease being highly contagious spreads like wild fire affecting cattle throughout the length and breadth of the country. Attacks are usually endemic, appearing at frequent intervals the disease being present in certain localities throughout the year though in varying intensities.



An affected cow showing salivation from the mouth

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

As has been said above it affects 3.5 lakh cattle annually. There is a rapid loss in condition, milk yield of affected cows is markedly decreased which occasionally does not return to normal in the same or even in the subsequent lactations. Working animals are incapacitated and are not able to perform their normal work for varying periods. The irony of the situation is that the outbreaks mostly occur at the time of ploughing and sowing and thus cause great interference in the agricultural operations at a time when animals are needed most. 'Panting' is another serious complication which develops in quite a few animals and is characterized by difficult breeding particularly during summer. Other factors which contribute to economic losses are reduced breeding capacity, loss in flesh, deformed hoofs, etc. Actual mortality is low probably less than 1% in adult cattle. The death rate is however higher in young animals particularly if they are suckling the affected mother.

SYMPTOMS

The disease is caused by a 'virus', and is commonly recognized by the cattle owners by dribbling of long thread like saliva from the mouth and lameness of one or more legs. The diseased animal has indisposition to feed and split pea size blisters are found on the tongue, gums and mouth accompanied by smacking of lips. Blisters are also found between and above the claws resulting in shaking of legs. There is rapid loss in condition. When affected animals are properly looked after acute symptoms pass off in 3-5 days and recovery takes place in 10-15 days.

HOW IT SPREADS

The commonest agent to spread the disease from animal to animal is the infected animal itself. Saliva of the diseased animal which is highly contagious contaminates the pasture, roads, stables, halters,

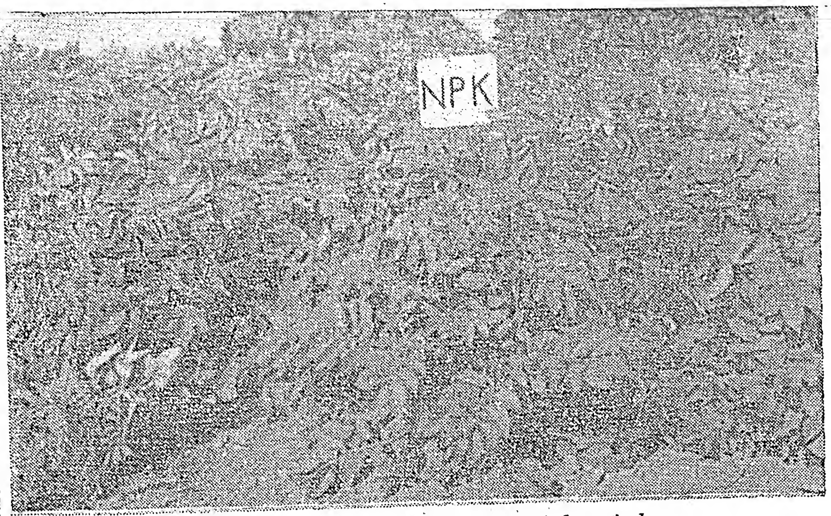
feeding and watering troughs, straw, hay and railway wagons, and thus cause the disease to spread indirectly. Not infrequently the infective material from the teats of the affected cow gets mingled with the milk to infect suckling animals and human beings. Cattle attendants form an important source for transmitting the disease. Uncontrolled movement of cattle also transmits the disease across the borders of the State and from district to district. Sometimes dogs, vermins and birds convey the infection on their feet to distant places.

CONTROL AND TREATMENT

Considering the great economic importance of the disease the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1943 initiated organised research at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute on this disease to evolve a suitable protective vaccine. As a result of work done in this scheme an effective vaccine has been evolved by growing the virus on bovine tongue. However, the vaccine is yet too expensive to be introduced in the field for large scale vaccination. Further efforts are therefore being made to improve and make it cheaper. Unfortunately no specific drugs for the treatment of this disease are available.

Under natural conditions an outbreak lasts from 2-3 weeks. A useful practice to cut short the course of the disease occurring in large herds is to rub saliva from mild cases of the disease in the mouth of animals in close vicinity of the outbreak. Besides this, the lesions in the mouth and foot should be treated with proper antiseptics, like 1:1,000 potassium permanganate and 3% alum solution and those in the foot with a mixture of coal tar and copper sulphate—(Nilathota). When large number of animals is affected in a village the foot lesions can be treated *en masse* by passing the animals through a foot bath which is filled with phenyle lotion. These measures help to a very great extent to effect a rapid cure. Therefore it is recommended that as soon as an outbreak occurs the nearest veterinary hospital should be informed so that the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon may visit the scene of outbreak and do the needful. The infected premises should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with 1-2% of caustic soda or 4% washing soda and as far as possible the contaminated material should be burnt. The virus causing the disease is easily killed by heat and so looses its activity in relatively short time particularly during the summer season, but under certain conditions such as dry atmosphere and low temperature it has considerable power of survival. Milk from affected animals should always be boiled before consumption. Adoption of these measures accompanied with public co-operation and understanding can help a lot to suppress the disease in this country.

Treatment being given to an affected animal



Potato with nitrogen, phosphate and potash

Do you know your Soil?

By

S. P. RAYCHAUDHURI and **B. V. SUBBIAH,**
Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

THE problem of maintaining soil fertility and the need for improving the yields of crops is keenly felt by all farmers. They are always faced with the question as to what fertilizers are needed by their soils. Efficiency of fertilizer use would be increased by using it on the most responsive crops, on the most responsive soil devoted to that crop and on the particular soils which are at present receiving little or no fertilizer but have a tremendous yield potential. The primary purpose of soil testing service is to give the individual farmer dependable information on the nutrient status of each field under him.

WHAT IS SOIL TESTING

It is well known that all soils are not alike. Some are highly productive, some less productive and some others much less. Among the several factors that control crop production namely climate, physical conditions of the soil, crop variety, cultural practices, time of planting, weed control, insects, diseases, availability of plant food elements in adequate quantities is essential for full and maximum growth. The soil tests are designed to determine the limiting nutrients quickly and cheaply to meet the immediate need of the farmers.

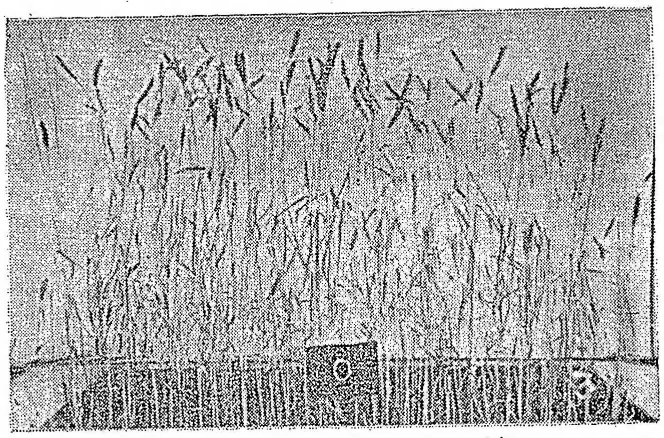
THE PRESENT NUTRIENT STATUS OF INDIAN SOILS

Soils in India have reached a low level of fertility due to continuous cropping and other unchecked factors like leaching and erosion. Application of adequate amounts of fertilizers combined with improved cultural practices only can build it up immediately.

The knowledge of the nutrient status of soil as shown by the chemical analysis is of great use but in India the data has been meagre to draw definite conclusions regarding crop responses and chemical analysis. Moreover the limits for judging the sufficiency or otherwise were not based on actual experiment. Most of the Indian soils come between fair or poor soils with respect to nitrogen and phosphate.

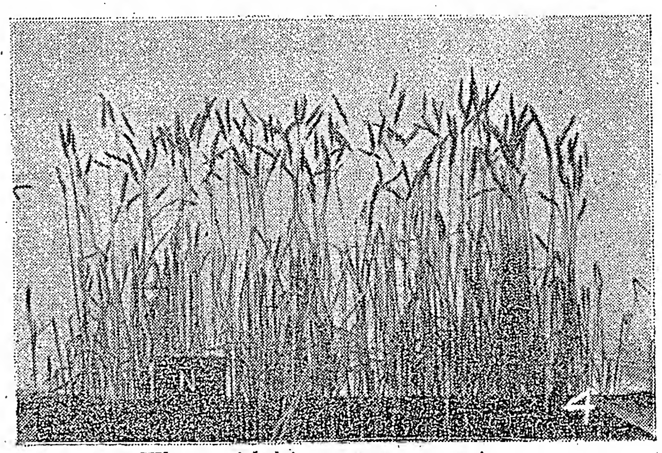
INORGANIC FERTILIZERS ON INDIAN SOILS

A review of some of the field experiments conducted at several places in India indicates that use of fertilizers may give extra yields varying from 20 to 70 per cent on the average for different crops. The following data indicate percentage increase due to the application of nitrogenous, phosphatic fertilizers and their combinations over crops grown in the absence of these fertilizers.



Wheat without nitrogenous manuring

Crops	Nitrogen	Phosphates	Nitrogen and phosphates
Paddy	23.2	20.4	50.0
Wheat	27.8	23.6	69.4
Sugarcane	47.4	30.3	46.6
Cotton	27.2	19.2	54.4
Oilseeds	49.4	19.0	44.0



Wheat with nitrogenous manuring

Although no systematic soil survey has been conducted in India to fix up the soil type for agronomic purposes, the distribution of broad classes are available. The responses to fertilizers on different soil types as obtained in the experiments conducted at different places are given below.

ALLUVIAL SOIL

Alluvial soils cover large areas in the Punjab, U. P., Bihar and Bengal as well as parts of Assam, and Orissa, and expansive deltaic areas of South India. Although the alluvial soils naturally are of high inherent productivity, their agricultural utilization has been complicated by the development of salinity in some areas.

Paddy in these areas has responded best with a combination of nitrogen and phosphate with an average response of 108 per cent over control. Nitrogen and phosphate alone were equal in their effect on the yield (21 to 23 per cent over control). Thus it is clear that both nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers are necessary for increasing the paddy yields in this area. With wheat irrigated also, a combination of nitrogen and phosphate gave the best increases over control—to the extent of about 61 per cent.

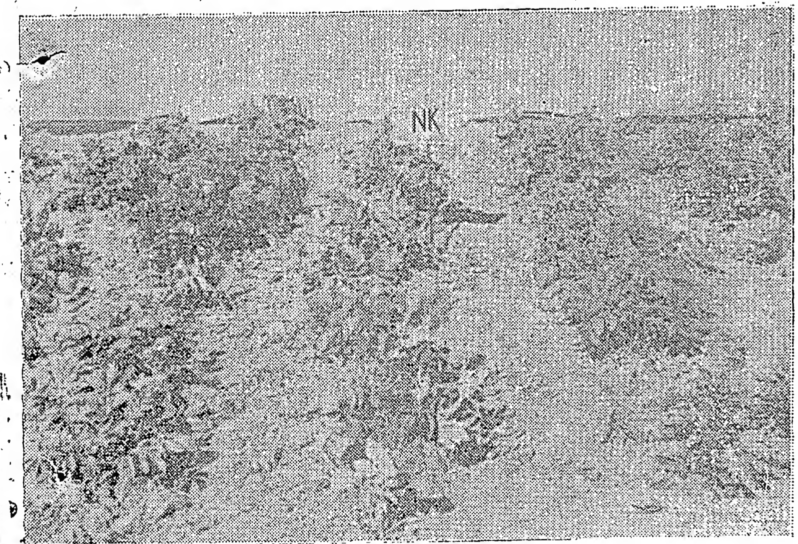
RED SOILS

Red soils occur extensively in many parts of India particularly in the northern and southern parts of the country and are generally neutral or acidic in reaction and relatively low in lime and phosphate.

In these soils although bulky organic manures and green manures appear to be superior to other treatments, a combination of nitrogen and phosphate has been found to be superior to either of them singly for wheat and paddy crops.

LATERITE SOILS

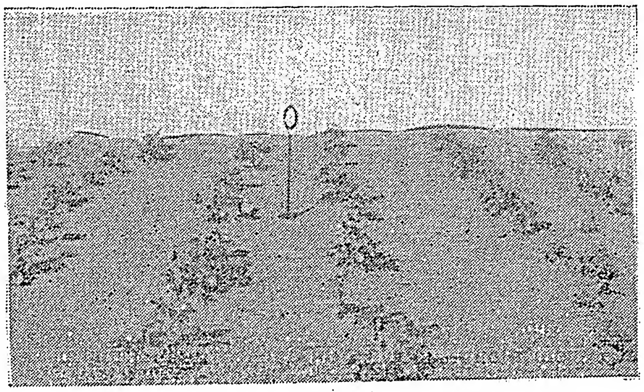
The soils occur in the Deccan, Mysore, Travancore, Central India, Madhya Pradesh the Eastern Ghats, regions of Orissa, South Bombay, Malabar and parts of Assam. Inherently these soils are of low fertility and tend to be deficient in common nutrients. Nitrogen in the form of bulky organic manures has given good response on paddy (50 to 60 per cent increase over control) and performed better than inorganic nitrogen, phosphate or both, showing thereby that there are deficiencies of other nutrients as well.



Potatoe with nitrogen and potash

BLACK SOILS

Black soils extend over a great part of the Bombay province, Kathiawar, Berar, the Western part of M. P., Central India, Hyderabad and some parts of the Madras Presidency. There are also mixed red and black soils in the south of Bombay, South East Madhya Pradesh, East Central Bihar, Southern U. P. Although these soils tend to be deficient in nitrogen and organic matter, the black soils are potentially rich and productive, provided adequate water is available for irrigation.



Potatoe without nitrogen, phosphate and potash

There are very few experiments on paddy and irrigated wheat in black soils. With irrigated wheat, a combination of inorganic nitrogen and phosphate gave the best increases in yields. On cotton also nitrogen combined with phosphate has proved superior to other treatments.

It must however be mentioned that any soil class may have a number of soil types showing different responses to manures and fertilizers and as such the conclusions drawn above are very general, having been based on the averages of soil classes of the different experimental stations in India. Moreover, they may have deficiency of other elements which can be only examined by rapid soil tests.

Thus, in India, all soils respond to nitrogen, and the present problem of manuring in India consists in finding out the phosphate deficiency of soils. Recent work in Indian Agricultural Research Institute shows the importance of phosphate in the build up of soil fertility. Proper applications of phosphatic fertilizers is an important aspect of increasing soil productivity by which the farmer is likely to derive both short term and long term benefits. It is in finding out this phosphate deficiency that farmers can themselves perform some simple tests.

The phosphate availability test is the simplest and requires very little equipment. This test makes use of the fact that a blue colour is developed when molybdate is added to a solution containing phosphate in the presence of a reducing agent, with intensity proportionate to the amount of phosphate in the solu-

tion. Several rapid tests are developed for determination of phosphate availability using this principle and differing only in the extracting agents. The interpretation of the colour developed is quite simple and the inference is made from the intensity of colour as follows :—(1) A dark blue indicates abundant supply (2) A high blue indicates adequate supply (3) A medium blue indicates a medium supply (4) A green or light green indicates moderately deficient supply (5) No colour or yellow colour indicates a very deficient supply.

ADVANTAGES OF SOIL TESTS OVER CONVENTIONAL METHODS

The advantages of these rapid soil testing systems are manifold. The procedures are relatively simple and the estimations rapid. It is possible to handle a large number of samples, about 500 to 1,000 a month by one trained worker. Conventional methods of chemical analysis are very costly and time consuming and for this type of advisory work no particular advantage is gained by their adoption.

PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF SOIL SAMPLES

The value of a soil sample depends in large part on how closely the soil sample fits the purpose for which the sample is taken. The sample should be as representative of the area as possible and proper collection of soil samples is very important. Generally, composite samples are collected with the help of the spade and the auger from plough depth of 0-6 inches the maximum area per sample varying from 0.1 acre to 50 acres. A minimum number of 10 borings per sample is recommended. The soils are dried before sending them for soil testing. Trained personnel is required for collection of the samples and the staff of the agricultural extension service can assist the farmers in the proper collection of them.

NUTRIENTS EXAMINED AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

Although most of the tests are made for the deficiency of major nutrient elements, generally one or more of the following are determined depending on the type of the soil:—acidity, available phosphorus, potash, organic matter, calcium, magnesium, nitrate, nitrogen, ammoniacal nitrogen, boron, iron, manganese and soluble salts. The limits of availability for all Indian soils have still to be worked out.

Interpretation of these soil tests is done on the basis of the correlation obtained at the experimental stations of the local areas. There can be considerable variation from place to place in the amounts of plant food that can be classified as poor, medium, fair, good and very good depending on the soil, and the methods adopted.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF SOIL TESTS

The soil tests will aid in determining whether there is a deficiency of one or more of plant nutrients, and the need for soil amendments. They will also be useful in diagnosing certain plant deficiency diseases and in determining the toxic quantities of materials in the soil. They cannot, by their very nature, be helpful in determining whether a plant has died of root or another disease or due to root destroying pests. They cannot also determine physiological troubles arising from drought, temperature extremes, excess water, etc.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Before adopting the rapid soil tests, they might be suitably modified and standardized against field tests. No single test can claim reliability for all crops and no single chemical criterion can indicate the supplying power of all soils for specific nutrient elements. The interpretation of the results of rapid chemical tests should be done only by an experienced individual knowing the nature of the soil under consideration and should have the results of a number of tests at his disposal. Nearly every soil lacks one or more of essential elements of plant food and this will be often the limiting factor for maximum crop production.

In our country it is also necessary to examine the methods most suitable to different tracts. There is a notion that testing kits will meet the needs but the tests made by these kits are purely of qualitative nature. Comprehensive tests can only be made in specially set up soil testing laboratories.

In a vast country like India, these methods if properly modified offer a rapid means of utilizing the limited available fertilizers and water resources for maximum production.

WHEAT AND BARLEY

(Continued from page 11)

ADOPT BETTER STANDARD OF FARMING

The cultivation of barley is very similar to that of wheat. It is sown about the same time as wheat, but matures earlier than the latter. As barley is a hardier crop, it requires less preparatory cultivation than wheat. The average yield of barley is generally low due to poor soil on which it is commonly grown. Though the water requirement of the barley crop is slightly less than that of wheat, the former is irrigated rarely. By manuring (10-30 lb. N per acre as ammonium sulphate) and irrigating, the yield of barley can exceed the best yield of wheat. To avoid loss due to shattering of earheads, the crop should be harvested before it becomes dead ripe.

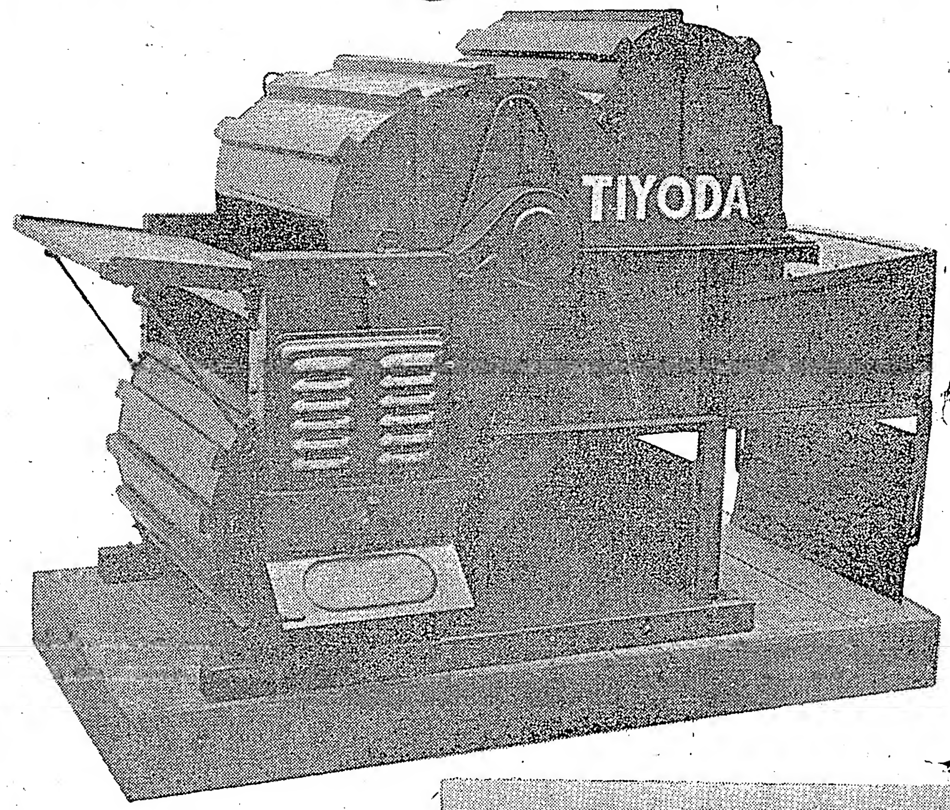
PROTECT THE CROP AGAINST DISEASES

Heavy losses are caused to this crop by 'Loose smut' and 'Covered smut'. Like wheat, the control measures for 'Loose smut' are (*i*) solar or hot water treatment of the seed in May-June and (*ii*) rogueing of smutted plants in January-March. For the control of 'Covered smut' it is recommended to treat the seed before sowing by Agrosan GN or copper carbonate at 4 oz. per maund of seed. Further, the diseased plants should be rogued out in January-March and destroyed.

SEEK ADVICE FROM THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

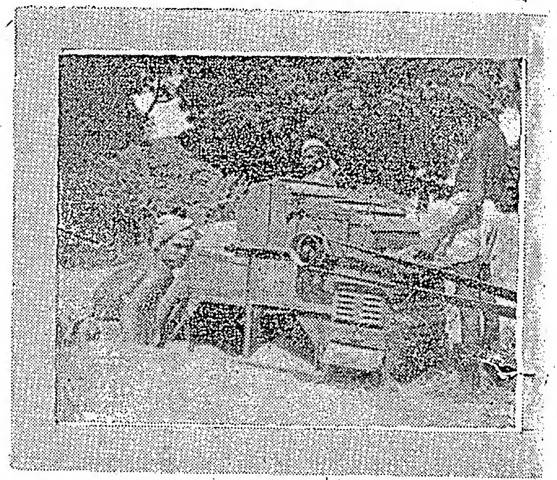
In all matters relating to crop production, the local Agricultural Department should be freely consulted and their advice sought.

Useful Japanese Rice Threshing Machines



TIYODA TYPE POWER THRESHER

It is a power-operated threshing-cum-winnowing machine and can be worked with a 2-3 H.P. engine or an electric motor of 1-2 H.P. As in the case of pedal thresher it also has a cylinder or threshing drum of 23 inches width, fitted with hardened steel spring wire staples or tines. The threshing drum is fitted with a pulley and can be directly connected by means of a belt with the prime mover. For winnowing, there is a fan below the cylinder (separated by a screen) which is fitted with a pulley driven by a belt from the main cylinder pulley. An average speed of 500-600 R.P.M. of the drum is required for rice threshing. Two people can operate this machine. The dry sheaves are fed to the machine at one end; when they come against the drum the separated grains fall through the perforated concave and flow out through the outlet. The chaff and the broken straw are thrown out at the other end. This machine has been found



Machine in operation

to be very efficient, it removes the grain from the straw completely and there is no breakage of grains. It is simple in construction, very light and costs about Rs. 600. The turn-out is about 21-22 maunds of clean paddy per day as against 3-4 maunds obtained by hand beating. It is very useful for holdings of moderate size where electric power or an oil engine is available.

—HARKIRAT SINGH

SUN AS A MEANS OF CONTROLLING WHEAT SMUT

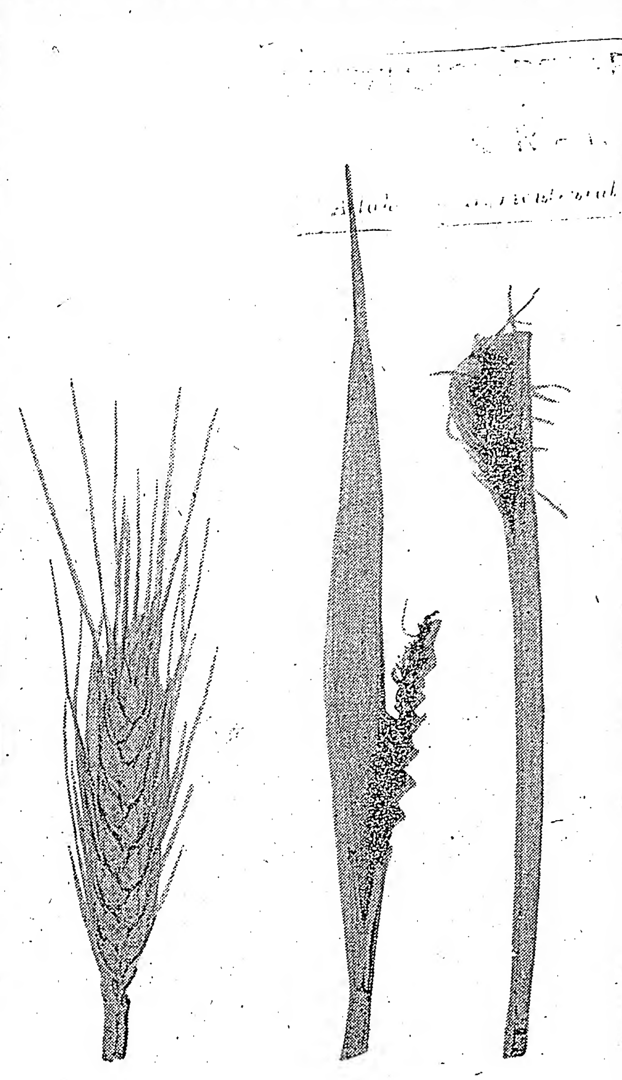
By **R. S. VASUDEVA,** Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Diseased crop raised from untreated seed

SEED TREATMENT
Soaking of seed and drying in sun

Healthy crop raised from treated seed

INDIA is known to be the land of sunshine and bright weather. Both these gifts of Nature confer a boon on India by protecting health of man, animal and plant to a large extent. By the sterilizing effect of the sun some diseases are destroyed or kept in check. Recently experiments have been undertaken in some countries for utilization of the tremendous energy of the sun for industrial purposes. The use of the sun for controlling smut diseases was worked out by Luthra and has been successfully employed to eliminate infection of loose smut disease from wheat grain. The process is very simple and involves practically no cost. The farmer can use this without any difficulty, as there is no need of thermometer for regulating temperature of hot water as was the case in the old hot-water treatment. The smut disease is caused by a fungus which remains in dormant condition in the wheat grain. When grain germinates on sowing, the fungus becomes active and begins to grow with the plant. When the wheat plants come into ear the fungus manifests itself as a black powdery mass instead of normal grains. This powder consists of spores (seed) by which the fungus multiplies. The spores are blown about by wind and some of them on coming in contact with the flowers of the healthy wheat plants cause infection of the developing wheat grains. As the black smutted head produced by the infected wheat seed does not form any grain, there is a total loss of the produce of grain which is about 30-40 per head. The total loss of grain by this disease is of the value of several lakhs of rupees in North India and several other parts of the country. From recent reports it is obvious that nearly 10 per cent of the wheat crop this year has been affected by loose smut in about half a dozen important wheat growing districts of East Punjab. Actually the smut disease is prevalent wherever wheat is grown all over the world. By application of the sun such heavy losses of valuable foodgrain can be saved easily. The method has been in use in the Punjab for several years and it has been applied in Delhi and in Bombay also. Wherever the temperature of the sun is low, a little modification of the method can be made, e.g. after the grain is soaked in water for 4 hours it may be spread on cement surface which is hot enough to kill the fungus. In



Healthy ear *Diseased ears*

places where the temperature in the sun is 130° F. or more, the soaked grain can be dried on gunny bags. The method is to be used in two steps:

Soaking : Immerse wheat grain harvested from a field in which black heads have appeared in water at ordinary room temperature for 4 hours.

Drying : The seed thus soaked should be spread out for drying in the sun. In May and June, temperature of the sun in East Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar is strong enough to act on the fungus in the grain and kill it. The grain should be thoroughly dried and stored till required for sowing in the following October-November.

The same principle is being applied for the control of loose smut in barley and grain smut of *jowar* with encouraging results at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

They fill 2,000,000 Rice-bowls each year

By **T. A. G. HUNGERFORD**

Norman Simpson and his elder son, Ross, at work on the grading of a rice bay

WITH the harnessed waters of the Murrumbidgee River to help them, Australian rice-farmers Norman Simpson and his two sons, Ross and Barry, yearly produce hundreds of tons of rice and meat in a world that grows increasingly anxious over the source of its future meals.

September and October on the Australian rice farms of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in southern New South Wales are months of fresh winds and blue skies, of heat that is a foretaste of the summer to come, and of sudden cold, dull days that drag the vanishing winter back for one more curtain-call.

It is the time of planting rice, and from early morning until sunset tinges the grassy tops of the dykes with a thin feather of gold, tractors cough and growl across the dry rice-bays as combines lodge the seeds of a new crop, writing their signature in geometric patterns in the shallow tilth.

Some years ago, I stood on a low dyke watching Japanese women plant rice in a flooded paddy only a few hundred yards from the seashore of Kurchachi Jima, a tiny island in the Inland Sea. To protect themselves from the driving rain and wind, they wore layered straw capes over their shoulders, but they stood to their knees in water, plunging their hands deep into the icy slush. As they moved across the paddy, slowly, methodically, little clumps of delicate green spears appeared in their wake, and the terraced hills of the mainland frowned down on them from a sleety sky.

Nobody knows how long that paddy has been producing its yearly crop, never rested, never replenished. Almost as soon as one crop is taken off, another is set. Almost before the gongs of thanksgiving for the harvest have stopped booming in the temples, prayers are being offered for another bountiful harvest. The land is tired.

It is thousands of miles and thousands of years away from the sun-warmed paddocks of Yends, some 18 miles out of the town of Griffith, where Norm Simpson, veteran of the first World War, and his two sons, Ross

and Barry, yearly produce rice crops with an average of better than two tons (about 4480 lbs.) of rice to the acre.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area has the highest yield of rice in the world.

Australia's contribution to the world's rice-bowl, although small at present, is destined for wide expansion as new areas all over the continent are brought into production. A survey of possibilities of large scale rice growing in the north of Western Australia, in the Northern Territory and in Queensland, has already been concluded, and several localities marked where soil and climatic conditions are suitable for rice growing, either by irrigation or by rainfall flooding.

MECHANIZATION OF RICE INDUSTRY

But whatever the consideration of growth, the seed must first be sown and last be harvested. Mechanization is the key to Australia's rice industry, from the water-wheel that measures the flow of water into the land to the complicated harvester that cuts, threshes, winnows and cleans the paddy-rice, and puts it into bags before it leaves the field.

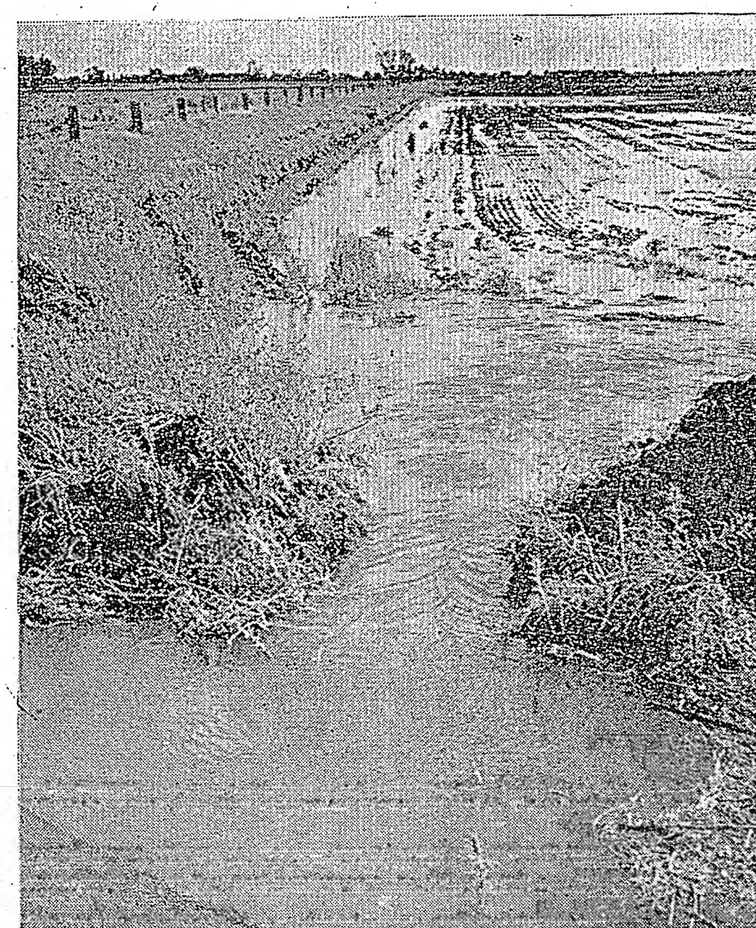
Norman Simpson takes fullest advantage of machinery on his block. In the winter, when he prepares his land, he sits on a tractor that draws the shining discs of a six furrow plough across the rice-bays, ploughing as deep or as shallow as he likes by the twist of a cog. When he sows in the spring, he uses a tractor and combine to sow at the rate of 25 to 30 acres a day on a dry surface, as with wheat. The sharp tines of the combine rip out the furrows, and the seed, regulated to whatever flow is deemed necessary, drops through funnels from the seed-box, about 116 lb. to the acre. The harrow, trailing behind, covers it up.

If during its resting period, the bay has been sown to a good cover of clover or lucerne, both of which fix nitrogen into the soil, there is no need for fertilizer. But if it has to be applied, sulphate of ammonia, at the rate of about two cwt. to the acre, runs from the manure box on the combine at the same time as the seed is sown; sometimes, it is broadcast in the flooded bays on the completion of sowing.

The surface of the bays is levelled by a grader, towed behind the tractor. Water which once was snow on the Australian Alps, and which has travelled perhaps a thousand miles down the Murrumbidgee River, flows gently from the main irrigation channels through a web of ditches and to the farthest corners of Norman Simpson's well-graded and surveyed rice bays.

To gather their crops, pioneer rice growers in Australia evolved a small engine which was used as

Sowing completed, the rice bay is flooded to a depth of about two inches to induce germination of the seed. Water is seen flowing into a partly-inundated bay from one of the large irrigation ditches that lattice the countryside around Yenda



Water flowing from an irrigation ditch into a partly flooded rice bay after the completion of sowing

Barry Simpson stops the tractor to refill the seed box of the combine

A wheel is used to measure the quantity of water used as it flows from the main canal into the ditch on the rice farm

auxiliary power on ordinary wheat-harvesters. Australian machinery firms using the same principle, built rice-headers, drawn by tractor or horses. With eight to twelve-foot cuts, they cut, thresh, winnow and clean the grain in one operation; they are fitted with grain boxes and bagging platforms so that the rice can be bagged while the headers are still moving through the crop.

Of recent years, the fore-cut automatic header has been increasingly used; while the side cut machine must destroy a portion of the crop by trampling the first cut around the edges of a bay, the fore-cut can enter a crop without damage in opening it up. Those of the growers in the irrigation area who have the older side-cut machine usually employ a contractor with a fore-cut auto-header to cut a track around their bays.

From sowing to harvesting, a retinue of machines wins the best possible results from the Australian rice-crops, and when finally the bagged grain is whisked by trailer-units to rail-head or local rice mill, another set takes over. These remove the grain from the husk, and the dust from the grain, polish it and deliver it as we know it best—white, pearly rice.

MAXIMUM RETURN ENSURED

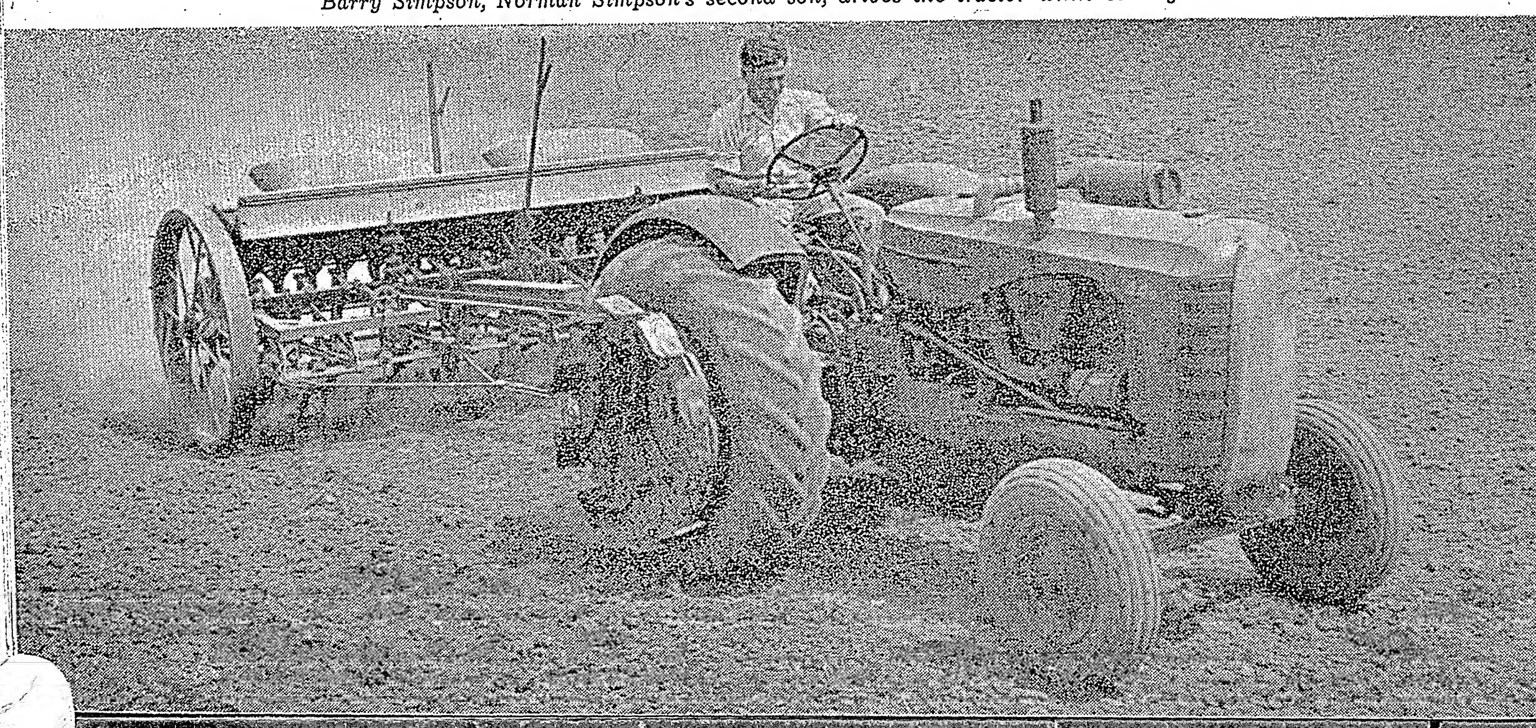
Through careful experimentation in Government departments, each tract of land is sown to the type of rice most suited to it, and through the most rigid quarantine supervision on the import of rice seed, no fungous diseases, which take such a heavy toll of crops overseas, have yet made their appearance in Australia. The farmer gets the maximum return for his work, and the men of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area own their land.

To get his crop in and to take it off, Norman Simpson uses an impressive array of Australian made farm machinery. He has two rubber-tyred 25/30 horse power tractors for hauling the machinery; a 5-furrow disc plough breaks up the hard country and a 12-disc Sundercut works the finer soils, with a 16-tyne scarifier and an offset disc cultivator that are substituted for the Sundercut in favourable conditions. To break down the first cultivation to a fine seed-bed, a disc harrows and a 6-leaf set of diamond harrows are used. There is a grader for levelling, a combine for sowing, and for harvesting, an engine-functioned, rubber-tyred grain header is used for wheat harvesting, but with an interchangeable modified threshing drum used for rice. For forming and repairing levee banks and ditches, there is a delver, and a single furrow road plough for use in conjunction with it.

Apart from the machinery used in the rice-farming on Jubarro, there is a pasture mower, and a fertilizer spreader which, attached to the general utility motor truck, is used in applying superphosphate to the pastures. For dipping the sheep against lice, there is a rotary spray dip, which is a vast improvement on the old-fashioned trough dip. And last but not least, there are six magnificent draught horses as a stand by—one year, when one rice bay yielded a fabulous 4 tons of rice to the acre, the mechanical header could not go through it. The horses, with men at their heads to slow them down, hauled the machine through the crop.

With this mechanical help and with the labour and experience of himself and his two sons, Norman Simpson produced 550 tons of the 75,000 tons of rice harvested last year from the 37,000 acres planted in the irrigation areas of the Murrumbidgee. The acreage and the yield does not alter very much from year to year on irrigated land; Asians normally eat about 1½ lb. of rice a day in three meals, so that the work of these three Australian farmers fills over 2½ million rice bowls every year.

Barry Simpson, Norman Simpson's second son, drives the tractor while sowing rice



VILLAGE EXTENSION WORK

(*Continued from page 16*)

Some suggestions and guides when deciding to use local village leadership.

1. Determine the place of the local leader in the programme.
   (*a*) Give careful consideration to the place of local leaders in a given project and outline their specific functions in it.
   (*b*) Give careful consideration to the type of activities leaders are expected to perform.
   (*c*) Give careful consideration to the type of subject-matter local leaders are capable of deporting.
   (*d*) Use other means and agencies in proper relationship to local leader's demonstration work, preceding it to obtain attention and interest and following it to obtain action and satisfaction.
   (*e*) Use sufficient number of leaders, and require small amount of time from each.

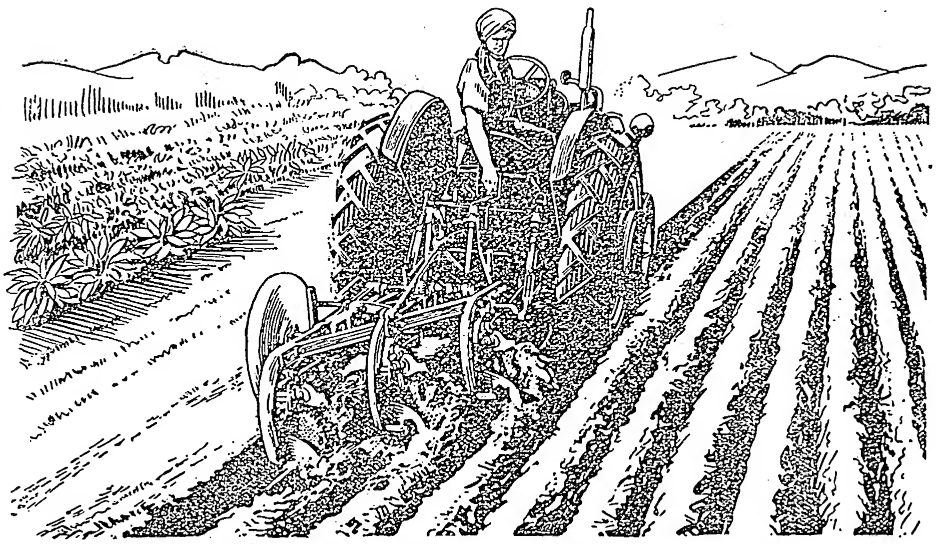
2. Select satisfactory leaders.
   (*a*) Watch village people for evidence of new leadership and provide opportunity for its development and use.
   (*b*) Have group select own leader after qualifications have been presented.
   (*c*) Consider interests such as desire to help others, desire to help the group, and interest in the subject matter.
   (*d*) Consider abilities such as educational background, and knowledge of the subject.
   (*e*) Consider personality factors such as enthusiasm, tactfulness, loyalty, and standing in village.

3. Give leaders adequate training and assistance.
   (*a*) Assist leaders in planning and organizing their work.
   (*b*) Train leaders carefully in teaching methods, in knowledge of subject matter.
   (*c*) Provide supplementary helps for use of leaders.
   (*d*) Assist leaders in obtaining all necessary material for work.
   (*e*) Encourage leaders to discuss leadership problems among themselves.
   (*f*) Whenever possible, break up project handled by local leaders into short-time units.
   (*g*) Provide material for leaders to use in obtaining reports from members of practices adopted.

4. Give leaders encouragement and recognition.
   (*a*) Help leaders to develop strength through encouragement and supervision.
   (*b*) Emphasize the possibilities of the project in the village and of the satisfaction of being a leader in it.
   (*c*) Provide public recognition of work done by local leader at meetings and through the press.
   (*d*) Rotate leaders from project to project and from year to year.
   (*e*) Do not overwork willing leaders.

(*Concluded*)

Fordson Major Cuts Head- lands . . .



ONE of the many advantages of the Fordson Major Tractor is its ability to turn almost on its own axis.

Using its steering brakes, the Major can get right up to hedges and fences even in the most awkward corners. It can work round trees and other obstructions with amazing ease.

Other points—a big range of compact, Mounted Implements; 'at a touch' controls; and a modern Hydraulic Power Lift. Press button electric starting is now available. All these things add to the simplicity of Fordson farming.

Just ask your local Fordson Major Dealer to arrange a *Free* demonstration on your own land.

Let him bring a Major along, with any Implements you wish, and then you can judge the Major *on merit alone.*

You can drive it yourself to prove how easily it handles and transports Implements.

And all the while remember — the Major is the most economical of tractors to buy, run and maintain.

Fordson

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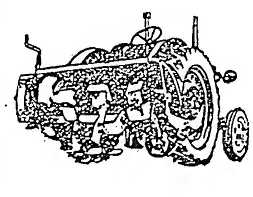
MAJOR TRACTOR

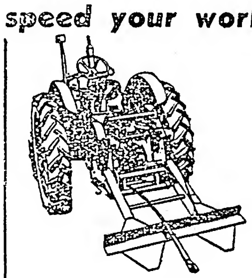
You get more work out of a Fordson

IMPLEMENTS

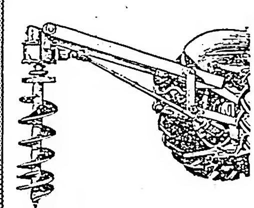
that speed your work



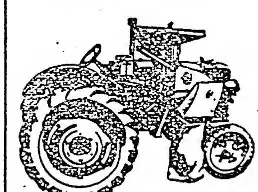
Rotary Hoe



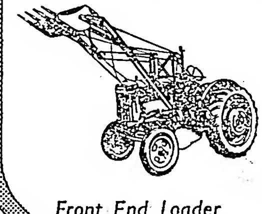
Cooke's Winch



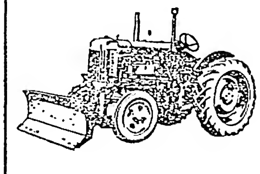
Post-Hole Digger



Scotmec Hammermill



Front End Loader



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As a result of this continuous experimentation, PARRYS now offer to Farmers separate Special Complete Fertilisers for every crop.
Advice on any particular problem regarding fertilisers will be gladly given by our Agricultural Technical Staff.

In countries such as India, Diesel Oil Engines are adversely affected by dust which is so often present in the air. This also applies to mills, such as flour mills, where dust from the material which is being ground is ever prevalent.
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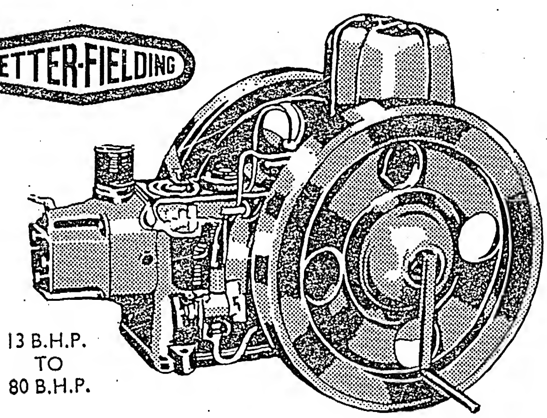

13 B.H.P.
TO
80 B.H.P.

Cost is reduced, because there are no old fashioned lubricators to break and all parts are kept free from the slow, but sure, damaging effects of dust. This Petter-Fielding-Engine is available from the Sole Agents in India, Parry & Co., Ltd., and is ready to supply Agriculturists with DIESEL HORSE POWER at the cheapest price in the World. From 13 B. H. P. upto 80 B. H. P.

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INDIAN FARMING

TYPICAL RURAL SCENE

PRICE 12 ANNAS SEPTEMBER 1952 VOLUME II. NO. 6

Shri S. D. Motafram,
Manager, Modiji's Estate,
Mandva-Bujrag,
District Broach

FOLLOW THE LEAD
OF THE
SUCCESSFUL
FARMER

My farming would not have been possible without 'International' Tractors

'I am using Farmall MD and H Tractors to grow jowar, cotton, tobacco, fruits and vegetables on our 296 acres farm in medium, black and sandy soil in the bed of Narbada river in Broach District.

'I am using HM 150 3 furrow disk plough and a 19B disk harrow, as well as a HM10 toolbar type cultivator with Rigid and Coil shanks for tilling my land.

'I like specially the toolbar as it can give the working conditions of a country plough which is much needed in moist soils. With this toolbar, I can cultivate about 12-15 acres a day.

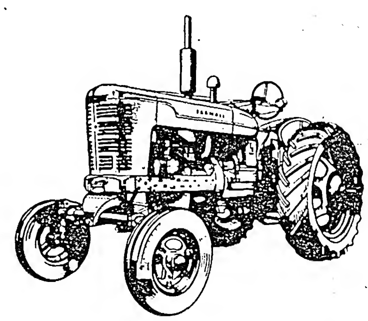
'The 10-C Hammer Mill is a boon to a farmer keeping more cattle. It saves in storage place besides saving a lot of fodder from being wasted.

'Both my tractors are also used for haulage with McCormick-Deering Trailer.

'Being situated in the bed of the Narbada river, our farm is flooded practically every year at least once, and we therefore get a very short period to sow or plant our crops. But 'International' tractors come up to the task. Without these tractors my farming would be nearly impossible. I have also to express my thanks to Messrs. Volkart Brothers, Agricultural Dept., who have always helped me with prompt service and sound advice.'

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

McCORMICK
INTERNATIONAL TRACTORS
and Implements



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INDIAN FARMING

Vol. II. New Series No. 6. Sept. 1952

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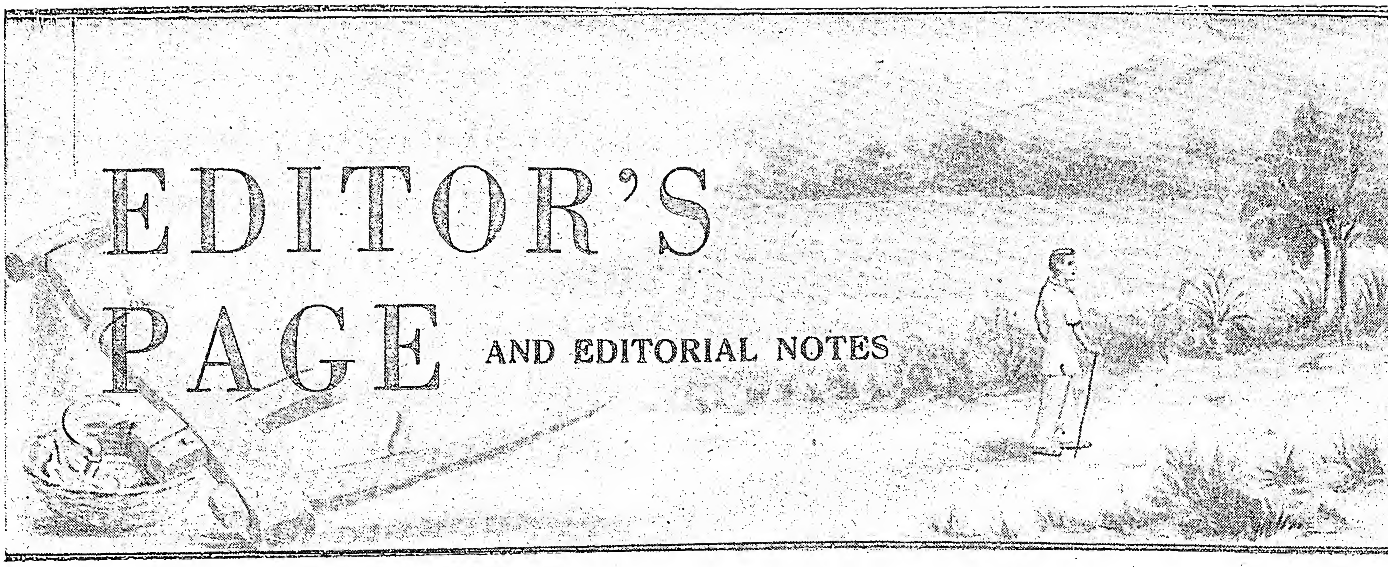


Time and again we have been warned about the advance of the Rajasthan desert engulfing more and more fertile lands. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has pointed out that it will have to throw a green belt to stop this encroachment right on the frontiers. At a time when India is striving strenuously to increase its food production and acreage under cultivation, it would indeed be a pity to find that more and more acres are being overrun by the desert sands.

This is, however, not a problem confined merely to India. Countries as far flung as India and the Chile, Australia and the Sahara are now actively engaged on research work in the arid regions, and research stations in these places are being strengthened. These stations will ensure that through exchange of information and maps, experience gained in one arid region will be applicable to others with similar conditions. Thus, a problem, which we might consider as our own, has world-wide implications and our interest is linked with the interest of the other countries where research work is being linked with the UNESCO research programme.

The *Courier*, a monthly publication of the UNESCO mentions that the United Nations through its expanded technical assistance programme is now making good progress toward reclaiming many of the world's arid areas and in protecting others from the encroachment of desert sands. We have already mentioned throwing of a green belt right across the frontiers to halt the marching sands. The emphasis on research this year will be concentrated on a plant species which may be transplanted to halt this march. Thus, while viewing the problem of saving the fertile lands from the onslaught of the Rajasthan desert our problem becomes that of halting the advance and then receding the tide by reclaiming more and more land. This problem is to be viewed in a wider perspective and all the help that we can get from the research work carried on by the UNESCO will be more than welcome. This research work is being carried out under the advisory committee of 9 scientists from Australia, Egypt, France, India, Israel, Mexico, Peru, the U.K., and the United States, and upon the success of the work of this committee depends the fate of vast fertile lands to save which will be the crucial question of the day in a few years.

LOCUSTS AGAIN

Drawing attention to announcement that yellow locust-swarms have crossed Pakistan border into Rajasthan we want to spot-light the interest of our readers once again on the locust problem. When last year one of the experts from United Kingdom frankly acclaimed the work done by the government locust organization, many sceptics shook their heads and considered this to be an extravagant statement. However, the speed and the imagination with which anti-locust campaign is conducted in the desert areas of Rajasthan deserves a mention again. Apart from using the conventional methods of combating locust menace, the Central Locust Control Organization is also using spraying fixed wing planes and power sprayers, dusters, radio sets, etc. for combining ground,

air, and other locust control operations. The Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture has already a fleet of 75 vehicles in action and the work done by the field staff reminds one of the field operations of an army in times of emergency. Although it is apprehended that the locust situation in the country will be serious during the next few months adequate steps are being taken to meet the menacé and with Jaisalmer as the base for aerial control operations the anti-locust campaign will comprise of a reconnaisance survey and dusting and spraying with various insecticides in addition to the other normal anti-locust operations by the ground organization throughout the desert area. Combating locust invasion is the last ditch defence. Attempts are being made by various countries in locating the breeding grounds and destroying the eggs before a mischief is done. However with the wide world at its disposal it will be some time before a more efficient system is organized and in the meantime every precaution necessary will have to be taken to see that locust does not add to the worries of the country. The Locust Control and Plant Protection Organization of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture appears to be fully alive to this fact and the way in which it tackles the problems is, to say the least, very refreshing.

RESEARCH IN COTTON

The work of improvement of cotton crop in the State is being carried. Efforts are being made to evolve suitable medium staple cottons for the Hariana tract. One variety, numbered as 216F and christened *Harianana kapas*, has already been isolated from American varieties and given out to the cultivators. This variety is early in maturity, highly resistant to drought, and spins 30 counts with the mean fibre length of 0·92 inches. In yielding capacity it is as good as, if not slightly better than, the best local varieties. In fact 216F vacates the fields so early as to be followed by a *rabi* crop. This variety is finding favour with the cultivators and spreading very rapidly. The multiplication and distribution of the seed of Hariana *kapas* has also been undertaken. Attempts are also being made to evolve suitable medium staple cottons for cultivation in the central districts. Experiments carried out so far indicate that a selection from L. S. S. cotton, numbered as 320F, meets the requirements of these districts best.

The work of supplying seeds of improved cotton to the cultivators has been undertaken as also rendering help to them by way of improving water supply, arranging for fertilizers, controlling of pests and diseases etc.

A CORRECTION

"August, 1952 issue of Indian Farming, page 18, Line 20 from above *for* breeding *read* breathing".

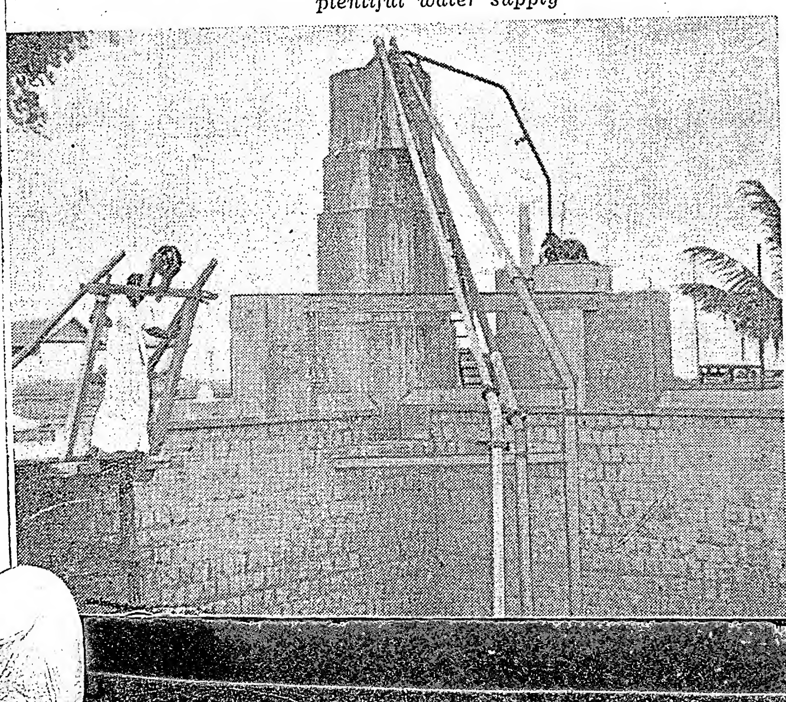
THE MAN OF THE MONTH

With him Farming is an Industry!

A farmer by aptitude

WHEN Shri K. Shivasankaran Menon, District Agricultural Officer of Coimbatore suggested that the P. S. G. Rangaswamy Naidu & Sons' Estate in Vedapatti was worth a visit, I was prepared merely for a boring two hours' visit to a hobby horse of a rich industrialist. This also out of respect for Mr. Menon who had done so much in showing me round Coimbatore and its farms. I expected this to be one of those sprawling estates where a farm house is kept for week-end picnics and provides for sinking of surplus capital. For sure, I didn't hope to find a well-organized systematically run farm with a first class system of irrigation through siphon wells and underground pipes. Nor could anyone have dreamt of seeing a neatly parcelled out farm growing a variety of crops.

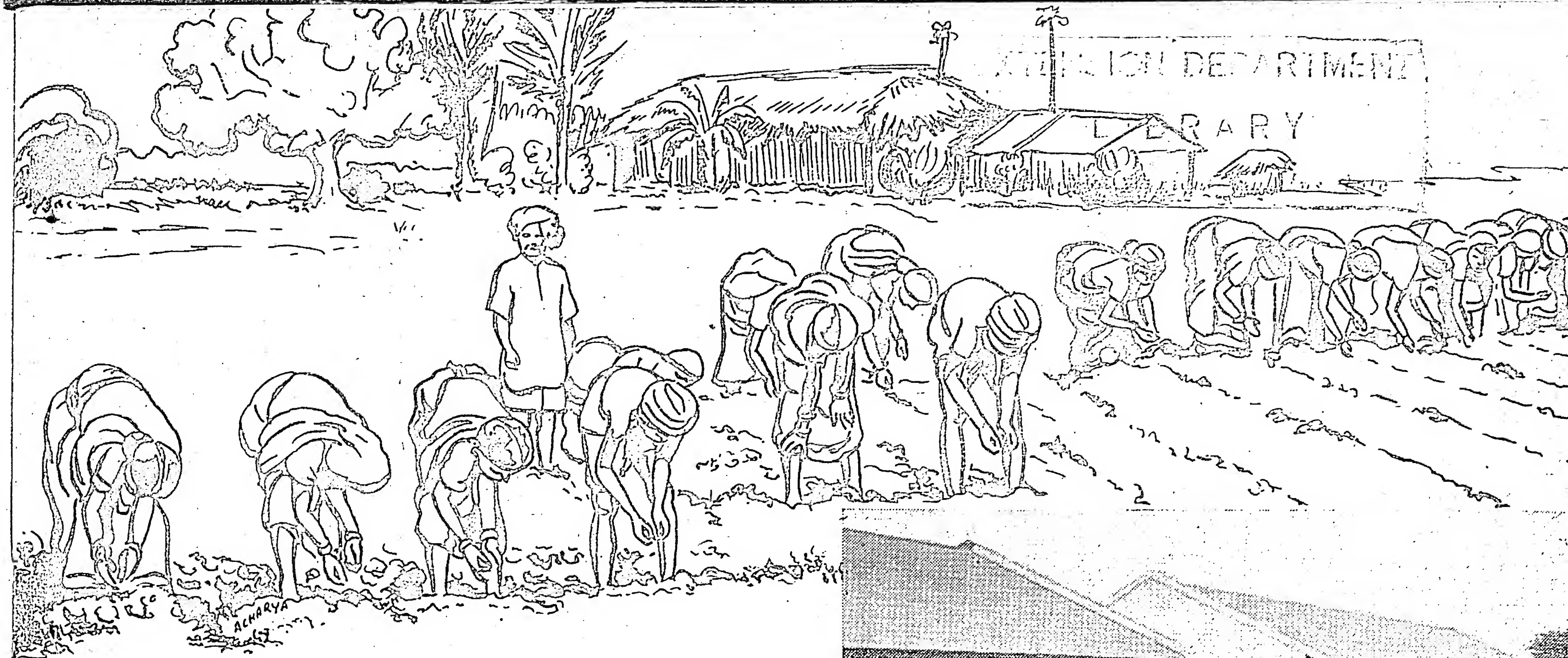
Five such siphon wells help Naidu keep his fields with plentiful water supply



The estate is situated in the village of Vedapatti, on the outskirts of Coimbatore very near the estate of the Government Agricultural College. It consists of compact blocks of land irrigated by flow of channel waters and garden lands irrigated by lift from the wells by centrifugal pumps.

INDUSTRIOUS FARMING

G. R. Govindraju Naidu, the man behind this highly organized farm took us round. Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, this young man in early thirties takes as keen interest in the farm operations as in the family industrial and the charitable concerns. He is proud of this estate which has modern and up-to-date machinery. All the machines are freely and fully used in the agricultural operations. The tractors, ploughs of different kinds, bund formers, levellers, chaff cutters, seed drills, harvesting machines, thrashing machines, etc. are some of the common machines and



implements. Thus by the use of these accessories a good deal of labour which would otherwise have to be employed is saved and the farm is run most economically.

COMPOSTING—A FEATURE

When asked what were the special features of his farm, Naidu said that firstly it is run as an industry. Secondly, the collection of manure required for the fields at various stages is another special feature of farming. The scavenging gleanings of the Coimbatore Municipality, cattle dungs, and all waste matters are collected in huge specially dug pits which are mixed together and allowed to putrify. By the time they are taken for use as manure, they become very good manure. Green manures, ammonium sulphate, super phosphate, groundnut cakes, etc. are freely used at the proper stages of agricultural operation. However, extreme care is taken to ensure that expenses are not out of proportion to the income. As a matter of interest the only advantage they have is that of having finances to effect improvements leading to improved farming and possibility of adequate returns on capital investment.

IMPROVED TECHNIQUES—AN ATTRACTION

Naidu told me that his modern method of agriculture has attracted many officers of the agriculture department either of that locality or those who happened to visit Coimbatore. Many consider it a pleasure to study the methods of agriculture followed here and he himself profits a lot by the advice and suggestions given by experts as to the management of the farm which would iultmately turn it into an ideal estate.

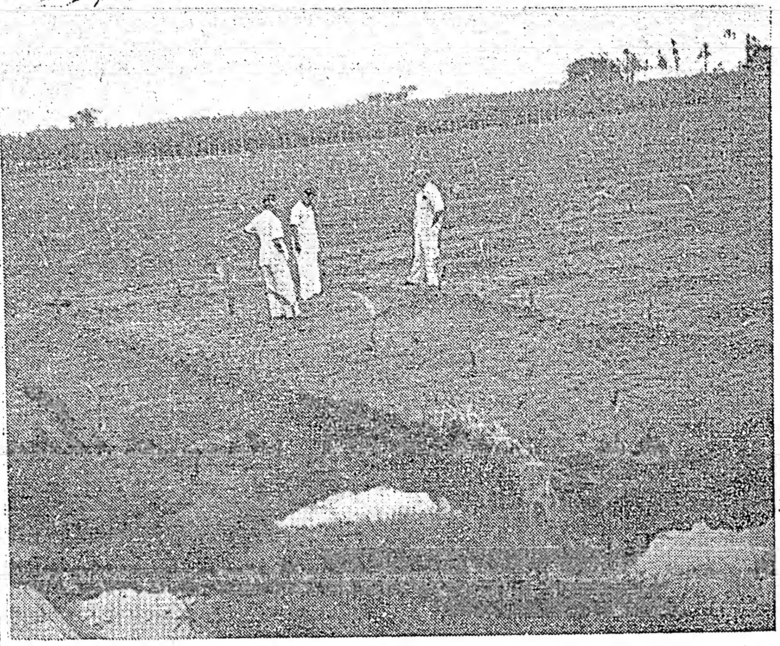
While feeling justifiably proud of what is being done, Mr. Naidu was all praise for the local agriculture department, whose interest in the farm and help its officers were prepared to give, have contributed to the success of this experiment. It was noteworthy that he could combat various diseases and pests assuring a fair and healthy growth of the crop, thanks to the plant protection service of the State.

WORKERS WELL PROVIDED FOR

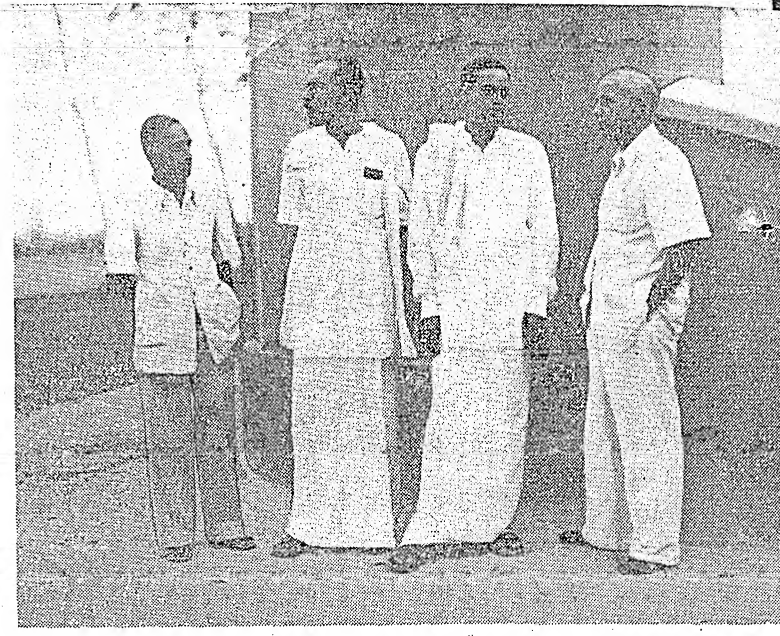
As a progressive industrialist farmer Naidu understands the desirability of encouraging progress all

In the picture are seen a few of the buffaloes maintained by Naidu

One of the many loyal and energetic workers who help Naidu to raise bumper crops



Agricultural authorities are seen here inspecting Naidu's farm



Naidu discusses common problems with State Agricultural authorities

round, and has considered it his primary duty to provide basic education and adult schools for labourers working in the fields. The Naidu family is well known in Coimbatore and runs an Arts college, an engineering college, a polytechnic school, a high school, two elementary schools, and hospitals. They have not forgotten their agricultural workers and a basic education school is being conducted at Vedapatti and is recognized by the educational department of the Government of Madras. The children mostly of the labourers working in the farm and of those living in the surrounding villages are freely admitted and are given free education using the latest basic education methods. In addition, for the benefit of illiterate workers who toil all day long in the field for their livelihood, Naidu has a night school where they are admitted during night time or at their leisure. They are given the necessary instructions and training in reading and writing and are encouraged to discuss current topics of the day so that they are kept well-up for the times.

The health problems also are not forgotten and a rural dispensary is being run where a qualified doctor and a compounder administer to the needs of the locality.

Malaria was very common when the estate was started in 1945, but by 1951 complete eradication was reported.

Being an industrialist Naidu realizes that if he is to run his farm as an industry he must keep his workers contented and he set about it in right earnest by providing free quarters for the staff and labourers and by giving other amenities to the permanent labour force which numbers 50.

IT IS A GOOD SIZE FARM

On a farm of 285 acres, 22 acres are irrigated by the Chitrachavadi Channel for about a year and the rest of the area of about 263 acres of garden lands are provided for by 5 siphon wells. Water is being pumped from the wells with electric motors and is stored in high level cisterns. These are connected by under ground tubes in such a way that the water can be sent out wherever necessary.

Naidu would like to go in for intensive cultivation. He finds that the failure of monsoon resulting in the insufficiency of water in the river as well as in the wells and the insufficient supply of electric energy for driving the pumping sets are the serious handicaps. If these, together with proper and good quality of manures are assured, with the proper handling of labour problem, it would be possible to run the farm as an ideal one and increase the productivity of the soil several times more.

Even for a well-managed farm, the work animals and other cattle as well as implements made available to the farm manager make impressive reading. This estate has at its disposal some 20 pairs of work bullocks and a number of buffaloes, cows, stud-buffaloes, etc. It also has a number of tractors, iron ploughs, bund-formers, chaff cutters, seed drills, and a variety of ploughs. Naidu who takes two crops of paddy each year has in addition sugarcane, Cholam, Ragi, Cumbu, cotton, growing on his estate. His figures of yield make interesting reading in that his average is very much higher than the average in the district or even in the State. But the reason why Naidu is featured as a Man of the Month does not lie in the increased yield he is getting on his farm. He belongs to an industrialist family, a family which till 1945 had never thought of taking to land. But having once taken to farming he has to make an outstanding success of it. He is well on his way to success because he is one of the few industrialists, who run a mechanized farm on the same lines as an industry. It cannot be denied that farming as done by Naidu should be a pleasure because he does not have the initial headache of finding finances. However, this is not enough. What is required in making a success of any job is personal interest and that Naidu has in abundance.

—PUSHKAR U. OZA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and where there's dirt there's Danger from germs!
Wash often with
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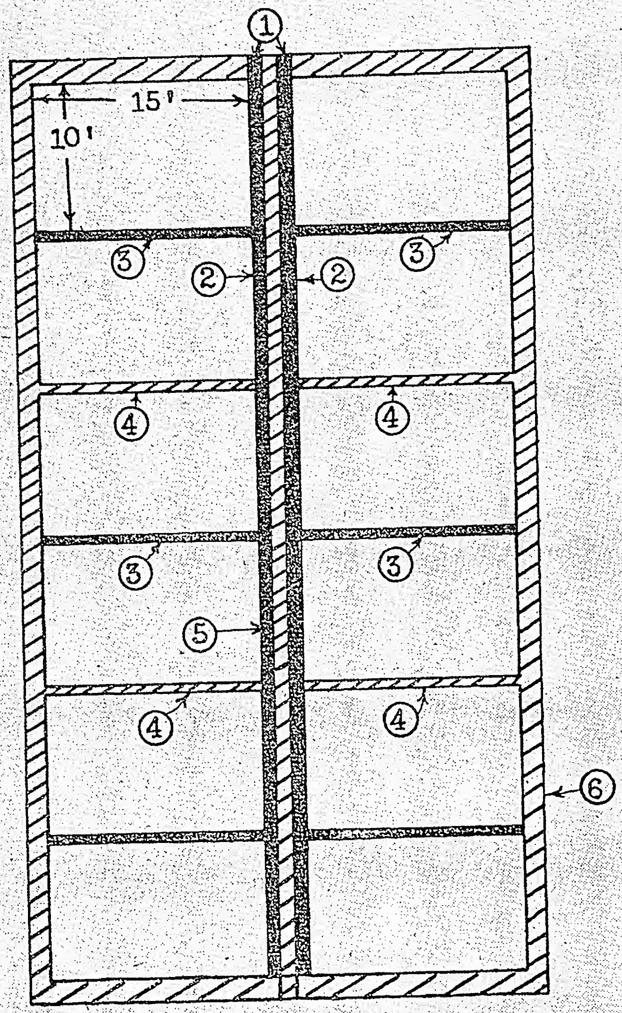
LAYOUT OF KITCHEN GARDEN



1. Source of water supply
2. Main water channels 1½'
3. Sub water channels 1'
4. Path 1'
5. Main path 2'
6. Border path 2½'

Hints to the farmer :

Rabi Vegetables

By **R. D. VERMA**, Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

ONE major reason for the poor health of our nation, especially the poorer classes, is unbalanced diet. Notwithstanding the primary position that cereals must occupy in our food the value of adequate quantities of vegetables in our daily menu cannot be overemphasized. Apart from supplying the main food nutrients like carbohydrates, proteins and fats in easily digestible and most palatable form, vegetables happen to be a rich and important source of vitamins and minerals so essential for good health. Consumption of vegetables must, therefore, be encouraged among our people, if the health of the nation is to be improved.

To achieve this objective, cultivation of vegetables should be encouraged, because at present, due to insufficient production and consequent high prices, vegetables have almost become a luxury which few people can afford.

There are two ways in which this problem can be tackled: (*i*) increased production by large scale vegetable growers and (*ii*) encouragement and guidance to those who have the interest and some land, to grow as much of their own supplies of fresh vegetables, as possible. This article, therefore, aims at giving some useful hints to the vegetable grower to enable him to raise better crops as also guiding the layman to maintain a healthy and profitable kitchen garden.

The following principal Rabi vegetables have been discussed :

(1) *Root crops* : Potato, Carrot, Turnip, Radish, Beetroot, Onion.

(2) *Fruit bearing crops* : Peas, French beans, Broad beans, Brinjals.

(3) *Cauliflower and Cabbage family crops* : Cauliflower, Cabbage, Knol-Khol, Brusell sprout, Broccoli.

(4) *Salad and leafy vegetables* : Spinach, Fenugreek, Lettuce.

(5) *Aromatic and flavouring crops*: Chillies, Coriander.

Although in a short article like this, it is impossible to do full justice to the subject yet, it is felt, that if the various points set down herein are kept in mind, major pitfalls which lead to failure and consequent discouragement, can successfully be avoided.

LOCATION AND LAYOUT

The vegetable area should be so situated as to get maximum sunlight. A south-easterly location, free of shady trees is most suitable. If it is not possible to avoid trees altogether, their branches should be trimmed to reduce the shading effect ; if, on the other hand, the land is too exposed to strong winds, it will be desirable to plant a hedge on the windward side as a screen and protection. But the hedge should be kept well trimmed and all weeds growing underneath it should be removed regularly.

Drainage must also be taken care of. If the land is not naturally well drained artificial drains should be provided. On no account should water be allowed to stagnate in the vegetable plots.

The layout should be such that all parts of the field can easily and properly be irrigated and are conveniently accessible for other work without having to go through the plots. It is advisable to divide the land into convenient square or rectangular plots of uniform size.

"Sioux"—an improved variety of tomato. Heavy cropper of beautifully round shape large sized fruits of excellent flavour

Brinjal—A plant of "Pusa Purple" showing heavy bearing

Regular paths and irrigation channels should be provided. After the land has been marked into plots and paths and the channels have been made, the plots should be thoroughly levelled.

MANURING

As the land under vegetables is normally very intensively cropped, heavy manuring is necessary to keep the land in a high state of fertility. A minimum of 20-25 cartloads of farmyard manure per acre is essential. It should be applied 6-8 weeks before vegetables are sown and should be ploughed or dug in immediately. If a sufficient quantity of farmyard manure is not available compost or sludge may be substituted for a part of it. Compost can be easily prepared from the garden and kitchen refuse such as waste potatoes, beans, pea, haulms, tops of rootcrops, waste cabbage leaves, surplus plants, weeds, leaves and other lawn mowings. Material to be composted is built up in layers to a height of 4–5 ft. in a rectangular pit 2–2½ ft. deep, with a thin layer of dung earth or good dusting with nitrogenous manures between each 9 in.–1 ft. layer of material. The material should be turned once or twice during the decomposition period. These organic manures are valuable in two ways: (*i*) they act as steady source of supply of all the nutrients normally required by the plant and (*ii*) the organic matter in them is essential for (*a*) all biological activity in the soil, without which soil fertility can neither be built up nor maintained, (*b*) for absorbing and retaining moisture in the soil, (*c*) for improving soil structure, (*d*) for absorbing greater heat from the sun, and (*e*) for the supply of micro nutrients.

Farmyard manure is undoubtedly the best manure for vegetables, but as different vegetables have different manurial requirements the use of fertilizers becomes necessary to meet these special needs. Generally speaking, leafy vegetables benefit more by the application of nitrogenous fertilizers such as ammonium sulphate, root and fruit bearing crops by the application of phosphatic such as superphosphate and bonemeal and potassic fertilizers of which common one in use is sulphate of potash. It may, however, be mentioned that Indian soils are rich in potash and application of potassic fertilizer is very rarely necessary. Nitrogenous fertilizers should be used very carefully and sparingly. Overdozing may lead to soft, unhealthy vegetative growth. They should never come in contact with leaf surface, otherwise, scorching of leaves may take place and the plants may even perish. Irrigation should be applied as soon as possible after application of these fertilizers.

SELECTION OF SEED

The seeds should be sound, free of weed-seeds, of good germination and true to the type. Inferior quality seed will invariably give a poor crop. It is, therefore, always better to purchase seeds from a seed firm of high repute. Such firms have their seeds tested for germination and usually have a large choice of improved varieties to offer. An improved variety will give a better crop at no extra cost except a little higher cost of seeds. When raising your own seeds select healthy and true to the type plants for the purpose. But seed production is a highly specialized job. It is usually better to buy your seed requirements from some good seed grower.

SOWING AND TRANSPLANTING

Sowing of Rabi vegetables begins with the end of monsoon and approach of the winter season. Most vegetable seeds are usually available in three strains—early, main and late. Each type should be sown at the proper time to get best results. As early sowings are done under adverse weather conditions, extra care is necessary in nursery raising. Following precautions will help in raising healthy plants in the nursery:

(*i*) *A fine seed bed is essential:*—A well shifted mixture of four parts each of sandy soil, and leaf mould and one part of well rotten animal manure is suitable for nursery sowing. If sowing is being done on the ground small nursery beds raised a few inches above the ground level should be provided to ensure good drainage. Before sowing, the nursery beds or pots should be thoroughly watered so that the soil may settle down properly. After 2-3 days top 1-2 in. of soil is prepared and sowing done.

(*ii*) *Avoid thick sowing*: It is wasteful of valuable seeds. Moreover, fungus diseases like "Damping off" readily attack the seedlings if there is overcrowding in the nursery. Over irrigation should also be avoided

(*Continued on page 18*)

MARKET NEWS SERVICE FOR FARMERS

Mr. R. T. Mirchandani (left) of the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, New Delhi with Mr. E. J. Rowell, Chief of the Programmes Division of the Information Office of the Production and Marketing Administration, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, learning Market News Service

By

R. T. MIRCHANDANI

Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, New Delhi

IN India regular and reliable series of price records are available in some of the important terminal and distributing markets where business is transacted on the basis of rules framed by the local trade associations. From the three port markets of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta and some other markets such as Hapur, the daily forward and ready price quotations of important agricultural commodities are being communicated to the traders in the assembling markets through newspapers, radio, telegraph, telephone and post. The commission agents in the up country markets keep their agents in the smaller assembling markets posted with market news mainly by postcard or letter. From this point, however, the dissemination of market information rapidly deteriorates and written word is replaced by verbal communications only. This is all for the benefit of the trading class and the producer's needs remain unattended. The cultivator normally gets his market news from his friends as may have lately visited a market or from the village merchant or a passing itinerant trader. It is obvious, therefore, that in the villages and in the primary markets where all the agricultural commodities produced in India are marketed and where the produce changes hands for the first time, and passes from farmers to the traders, the market information that filters through to the producers is not only out of date but in most cases inaccurate and biased. Lack of current market information is also responsible for absence of fair and free competition in the villages. The farmers have to accept the price offered by their commission agents and have no means to check the ruling prices. The disparity in the prices of the same commodity in different markets and the wide price spreads which so frequently exist between the prices obtained by the producer and those paid by the consumer go to indicate that market intelligence leaves much to be desired. If the producer is to get better prices for the fruits of his labour, it is of the utmost importance that he should receive more adequate, quicker and more intelligible information in this respect. While the market intelligence as organized by the trade is available for important commodities, no such information is, however, available for fruits, vegetables and livestock and its products which are generally traded on consignment basis.

It will be interesting to know what the U. S. Government has done for their farmers in this regard and the benefits that accrue from such a service.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

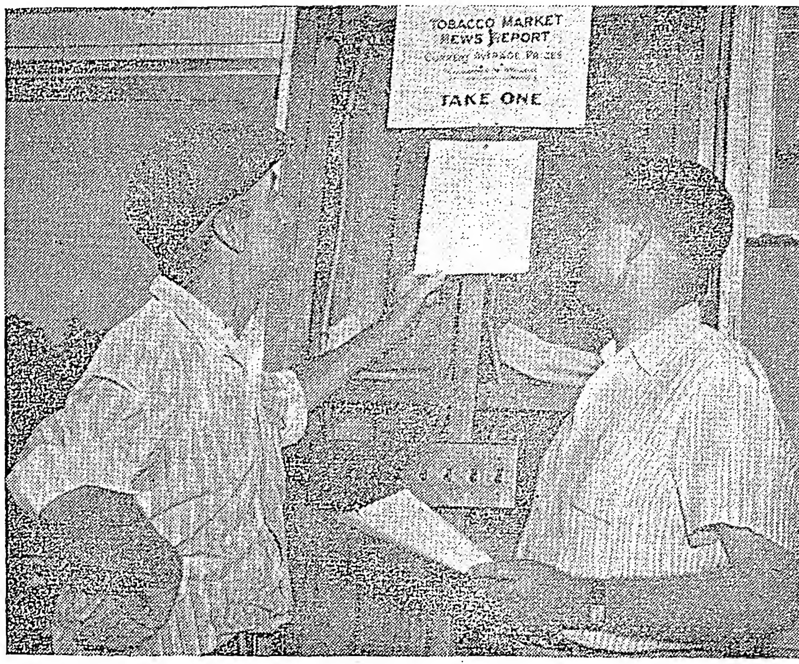
To promote orderly marketing with ultimate object to achieve effective distribution and fair pricing of farm products essential for efficient and increased production,

Note :—The author made a special study of the Market News Service of the U. S. D. A. during the course of his study tour in the U. S. A. under the auspices of Technical Cooperation Administration.

the Production and Marketing Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture (U. S. D. A.) carries out several marketing services and other programmes dealing with all phases of marketing from farm gate to the retail food store. The Market News Service is one of the main and efficient marketing services of the U. S. D. A. for the farmers in the U. S. A. It consists of collecting daily prices of agricultural commodities and other market information on price determining factors such as supply, demand, receipts and movements, in terminal, regional and local markets, and disseminating the same as promptly as modern communication facilities permit.

To keep the farmers fully and promptly informed about the trends and other important changes in market conditions the U. S. D. A. maintains quite an extensive organization. From a small beginning made in 1915, the service has expanded to report complete market information relating to movement, supplies, demand, quality and price quotations and trends on over 100 commodities. More than six million farmers in the U. S. A., many of them hundreds of miles from the large consuming centres are dependent upon timely market news presented in a simple and useful form. One hundred and seven year round and 43 seasonal offices located in 85 cities operate every year for the purpose. Over three million dollars are spent annually on the service. Over 35,000,000 mimeographed reports are mailed to interested persons and institutions every year. Over 1,000 daily papers mostly serving the farming areas publish as a regular feature, U. S. D. A. market news. For quick transmission and dissemination of market news the market news offices are linked by leased wire of about 11,000 miles, with teletyping arrangements. In the State of California the market news offices are connected by short wave telegraph radio system.

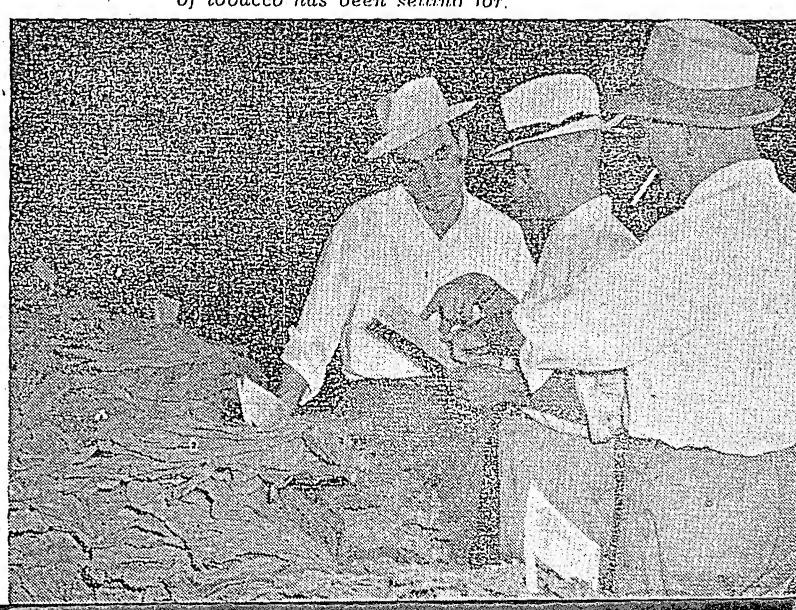
It is interesting to watch the activity that goes on daily—Monday through Friday every week—behind the service. A U. S. D. A. market reporter is out in the produce market or in the stock-yards much before the sunrise. He may be seen with a note book in his hand, moving among the buyers and the sellers and gathering and checking the market information on prices, supply, demand and other points. In the market news office, every one works against the dead line and a visitor can feel the speed at which the work goes on. The market reporter may be seen making a number of telephone calls, contacting distantly located merchants, processing plants, chain-stores and cooperative organizations, for information on prices and other market conditions. Market receipts from various transport agencies, processing plants, warehouses and cold storage plants are collected on another telephone. Calculating machines are used for totalling and averaging quickly the figures collected. The market information from other competitive and terminal markets is received on the teletypewriter and extracts picked up for inclusion in the local report. After all the information is gathered it is analysed and market report prepared for release. The report is immediately transmitted on the leased wire from where it could be picked up by other offices. Generally between 1 and 3 p.m. the market reporter will be busy in transmitting the report on the phone or by special messengers to local broadcasting stations, newspapers, press agencies and other interested persons. The press agencies in turn put it on their leased wire from where it is picked by the broadcasting stations and newspapers located in the neighbouring territory. While the market reporter is transmitting the report on the phone in another room the report is mimeographed, and the copies folded and addressed on the electrically operated machines and prepared for mailing to the farmers, tradesmen, banks and other institutions on the mailing list.



Tobacco Inspector directing a tobacco grower where to find the current price

In the dissemination of market news speed is at a premium and every effort is made to get news out while it is timely. Market information is released to the public through mailed mimeographed reports, newspapers, radios, telephone, telegraph and bulletin boards posted in the market places and other centres where farmers usually assemble. Radio plays an increasingly important role in the prompt dissemination of market news. The market news could be heard on the radio within less than an hour of the release of the market report. Over 1,300 radio stations

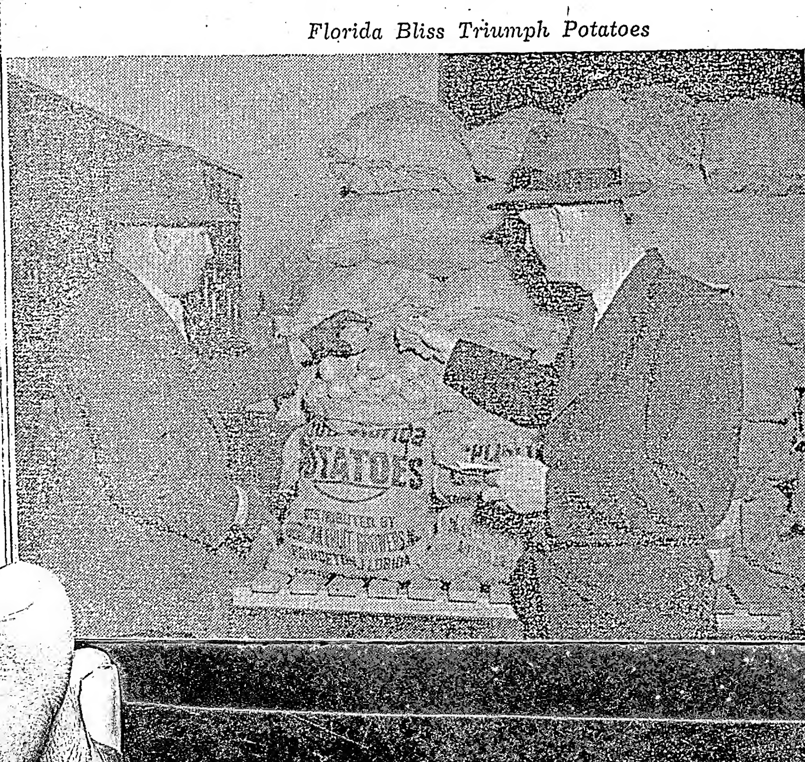
Tobacco Inspectors pointing to the farmer what his grade of tobacco has been selling for.



Central American Bananas being weighed at the Atlanta, G., State Farmers' Market

scattered throughout the U. S. A. regularly broadcast the U. S. D. A. market news bulletins. Some radio stations have even provided distant control facilities that enable the market reporters to broadcast directly from the office or local markets. The farmers before leaving for work eagerly switch on the radio every morning at six for the U. S. D. A. market report. The truckers who go out in the country for buying poultry, eggs and other commodities are well posted with the latest market conditions particularly of the terminal markets by means of the radio. After listening to opening livestock

Florida Bliss Triumph Potatoes



market report a farmer can rush his hogs or beef cattle to the nearest market.

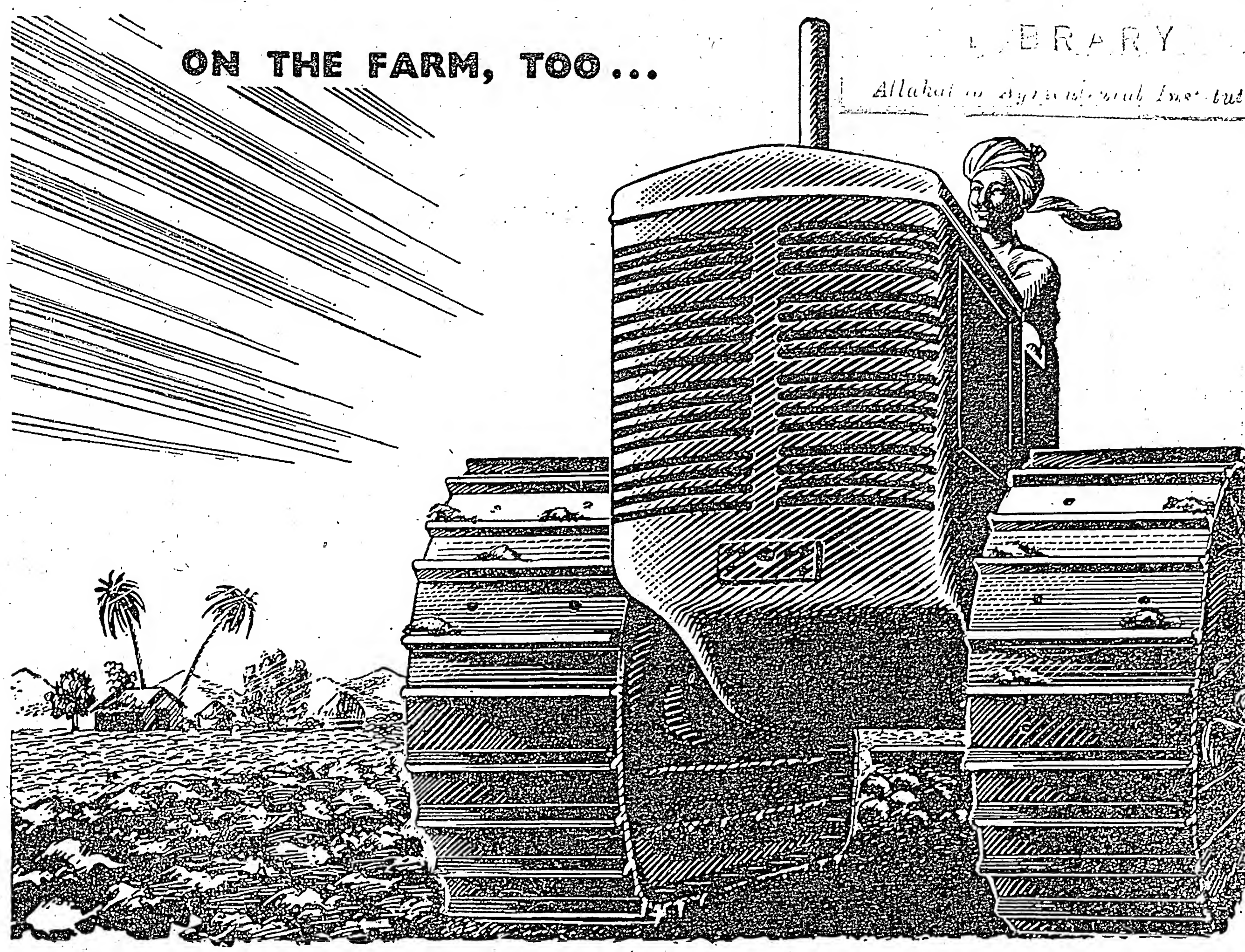
Both the farmer and the tradesman benefit from the service. It has strengthened the farmers' bargaining position and has put them on equal basis with those to whom they sell their produce. The price information, available grade-wise, helps them to judge approximately the return they should expect from their crop. It also induces them to produce better quality crops and thus raise the standard of farming. The farmers or their agents through whom they generally sell, by studying market news from alternative markets are able to direct their products to those markets that promise the prospect for highest returns. The service thus helps in the diversion of supplies to the points where these are most needed and thus prevents market shortages and gluts particularly in respect of perishable commodities. As the information is unbiased and is freely available to all, it creates healthy competition between the various buyers to the benefit of the producers. The market information disseminated through the disinterested and unbiased agency of the U. S. D. A. gives a comprehensive picture of local, other competitive and terminal market conditions. The terminal market information provides a means of check on the local handler and assures the farmer that he has received a fair dealing. The reports also provide a background for his judgment in selling his produce at a profitable price and at an opportune time under the then prevailing conditions. The Market News Service also maintains price series and other statistics on essential points for use in administering Marketing Agreements, Price Support and other programmes.

The Service is built up and has grown on the cooperation of the tradesmen. The Department has won their confidence by treating the information passed on by them as confidential and not even divulging it to the courts of law. They, therefore, do not hesitate in communicating to the market reporter the prices at which they buy and sell and their daily purchases and sales.

The Service is financed from the funds annually provided by the Congress and contributions made by various participating States—38 in 1951. A major share of the expenditure is met with from the federal funds. This is in recognition of the fact that the marketing of farm products is largely a national or interstate problem and to assure the uniformity, completeness and certainty in service needed to cope with the national marketing problem, the basic core of the service must be a federal responsibility. As users of the service have a fundamental right to receive in return for their taxes, any of the market news data that are collected and which they desire, the service is rendered free and no charge is recovered for the reports supplied except when the information is called for by the user either by air mail or wire or telephone.

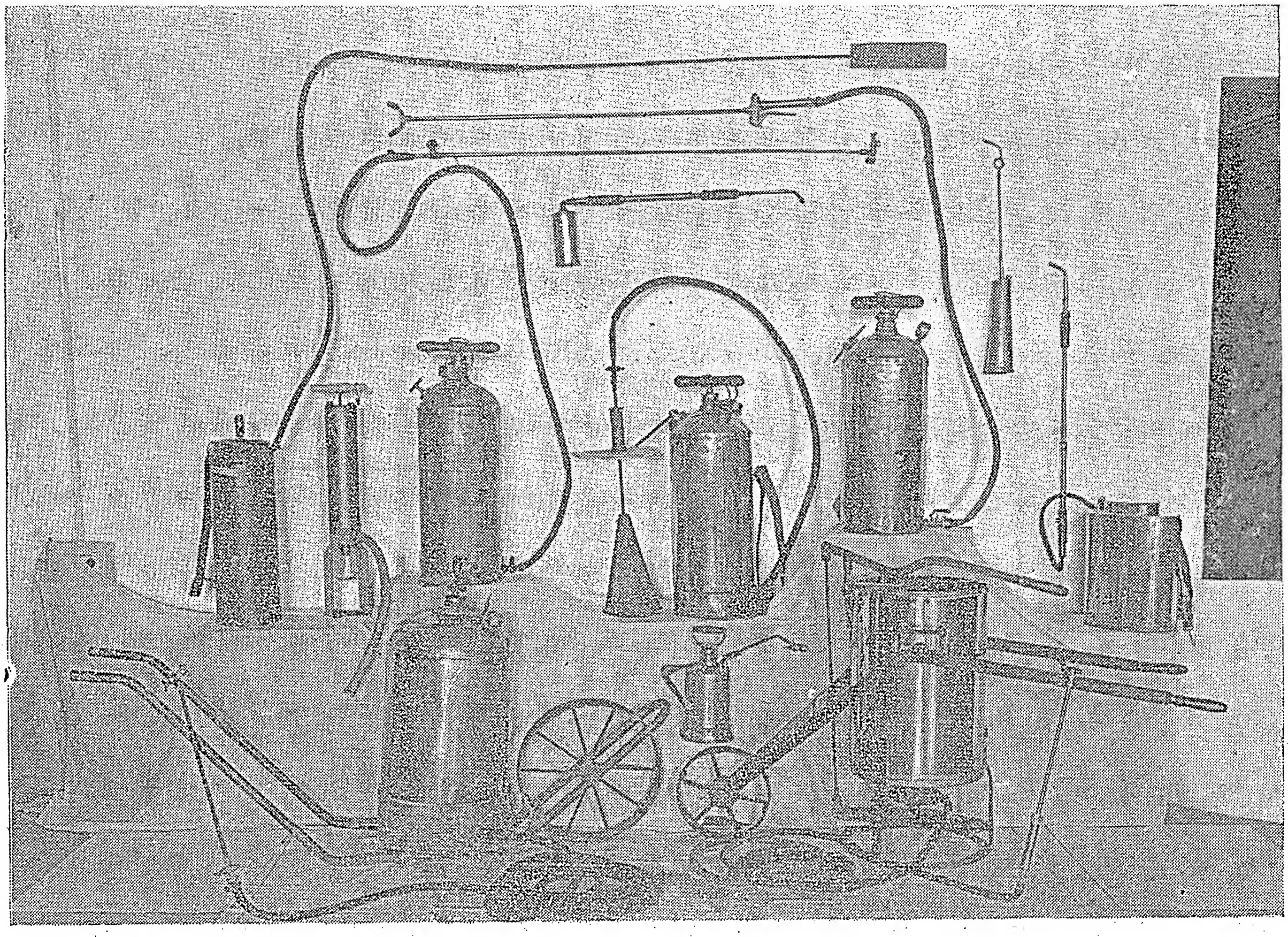
Without the realization of a fair price by the producer for his produce all plans to augment the production of food, jute, cotton and other crops are likely to go away. The 'Community Projects' which are now being launched should include in their programme organization of market news service through unbiased agency which would safeguard the interests of the farmers in cooperation with the trade. It is

(*Continued on page 31*)



NEW CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR FIGHTING INSECT MENACE

By **E. S. NARAYANAN,** Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.



THE period 1940-50 will ever be remembered in the annals of applied entomology as a decade when some of the most powerful organic insecticides that were ever at the disposal in the armoury of economic entomologists were discovered. The discovery of these new insecticides has not only opened up a vista for future research in this fascinating problem but has also engendered new hope in the minds of economic entomologists to fight successfully insect invasions which have assumed particular significance in the present context when our country is faced with an acute shortage of food. The importance of the discoveries of these new organic synthetic insecticides lies in the fact that a great stride towards the ideal insecticide appears to have been made and that they possess most of the desirable qualities in insecticides. For, it has never been difficult in the past to find chemicals deadly toxic to insects but what has really been the problem and still remains so is the difficulty to find new compounds, that will give good economic control without causing injury to the host plant, and the insects' enemies, and without hazard to the person handling them.

INSECTICIDE RESEARCH

It may appear from the literature that systematic research in insecticides was taken up only from about the middle of the last century. As a result of ceaseless and devoted endeavour on the part of both entomologists and chemists, galvanized by the necessities of a total war between nations, a number of insecticides approaching the ideal dreamt of by economic entomologists in the last century have been discovered. To mention only a few modern synthetic insecticides we may cite D.D.T. and its analogues, B.H.C. or 666, and its purified

isomers, Chlordane, Toxaphene, Parathion, etc. Though these are mainly contact insecticides their performance even as stomach poisons is so remarkable that they can be used both as contact and stomach insecticides. A good number of them like B.H.C., Parathion, etc. have a fumigant action as well. The modern synthetic insecticides are noted for their very high efficiency in comparatively very small dosages. In addition, some of them are known for their persistent residual action which has opened up a new possibility of building up lethal contact surfaces in preventing infestation. There is indeed a great scope for this in medical entomology and in the preservation of grains in the store that are meant for seed.

Very recently a new class of insecticides known as systematic insecticides is attracting a good deal of attention. These insecticides when sprayed on plants, get absorbed into the sap and prove lethal to the insect sucking the sap. The latest achievement in the field of insecticidal research seems to be a success claimed by La Forge and his associates in synthesizing analogues of the active principles of pyrethrum. The synthetic pyrethrum known as ALLETHRIN is really the allyl homologue of Cinerin I. It has been reported to be as toxic as pyrethrin to house-flies at low concentrations and even more toxic at higher concentrations. Many an attempt made in the past to synthesize pyrethrins had failed but the present success claimed holds a great promise for the future. The key for the solution of the problem of synthesizing compounds with remarkable insecticidal properties appears to lie in the correct understanding of the molecular constitution and configuration responsible for insecticidal activity. There can be little doubt that when this problem is solved we shall be in a position to synthesize insecticides at will that will prove effective against any kind of pest.

IDEAL CONDITIONS DETERMINED

Investigations on insecticides do not stop merely with the finding of better chemicals. Another aspect, equally important, as the chemical synthesis of insecticides itself, is the correct understanding of the conditions, both internal and external to the insect, under which the use of insecticides gives the best results. They include a wide range of complex, such as environmental, physical, physiological and biological. Ideas as to the best time, when temperature and humidity conditions will give the most satisfactory results, suitable formulations and their physical state when they prove to be the most effective physiological state and biological stage when the pest would be most susceptible should be obtained for the efficient and economic use of every new chemical discovered.

Yet another aspect that requires investigation is to establish that the various insecticidal formulations employed are not phytotoxic. Also, since in practice insecticidal applications are often combined with fungicidal treatments, it is desirable to investigate the compatibility of the newer insecticides with the existing commonly used fungicides. Research on these fundamental aspects has received a great impetus after the discovery of the modern organic synthetic insecticides. While research along these lines is of great practical importance in the use of insecticides in general, they are also of paramount commercial importance for the manufacturer to produce insecticides in the required physical state for achieving good results in the field. Indeed, even the agricultural engineer has to play an important role to evolve a suitable machinery for the efficient application of the insecticides at an economically low cost of operation.

In our country, no systematic work on insecticides on the lines indicated above has been done to any appreciable extent. Very few chemists, and no agricultural engineer have bestowed their attention on these important aspects of insecticidal research. Economic entomologists though engaged in testing some of the new chemicals against some of the serious Indian insect pests, appear to have missed, if not neglected, these fundamental aspects. In the Entomology Division of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, an endeavour has been made, for the first time to initiate research on these fundamental aspects, without which no progress is possible in insecticidal research.

Work has been in progress for some time in the Entomology Division of this Institute, on some of these aspects namely, (*a*) effect of certain chemical and physical factors, such as formulations, particle size, concentration, etc. on the toxicity of both insecticidal sprays and dusts; (*b*) effect of temperature and humidity on insect susceptibility; (*c*) function of the insect cuticle in the toxic action of insecticides; (*d*) efficacy of vacuum fumigation; (*e*) analysis of insects external and internal resistance to the action of fumigants.

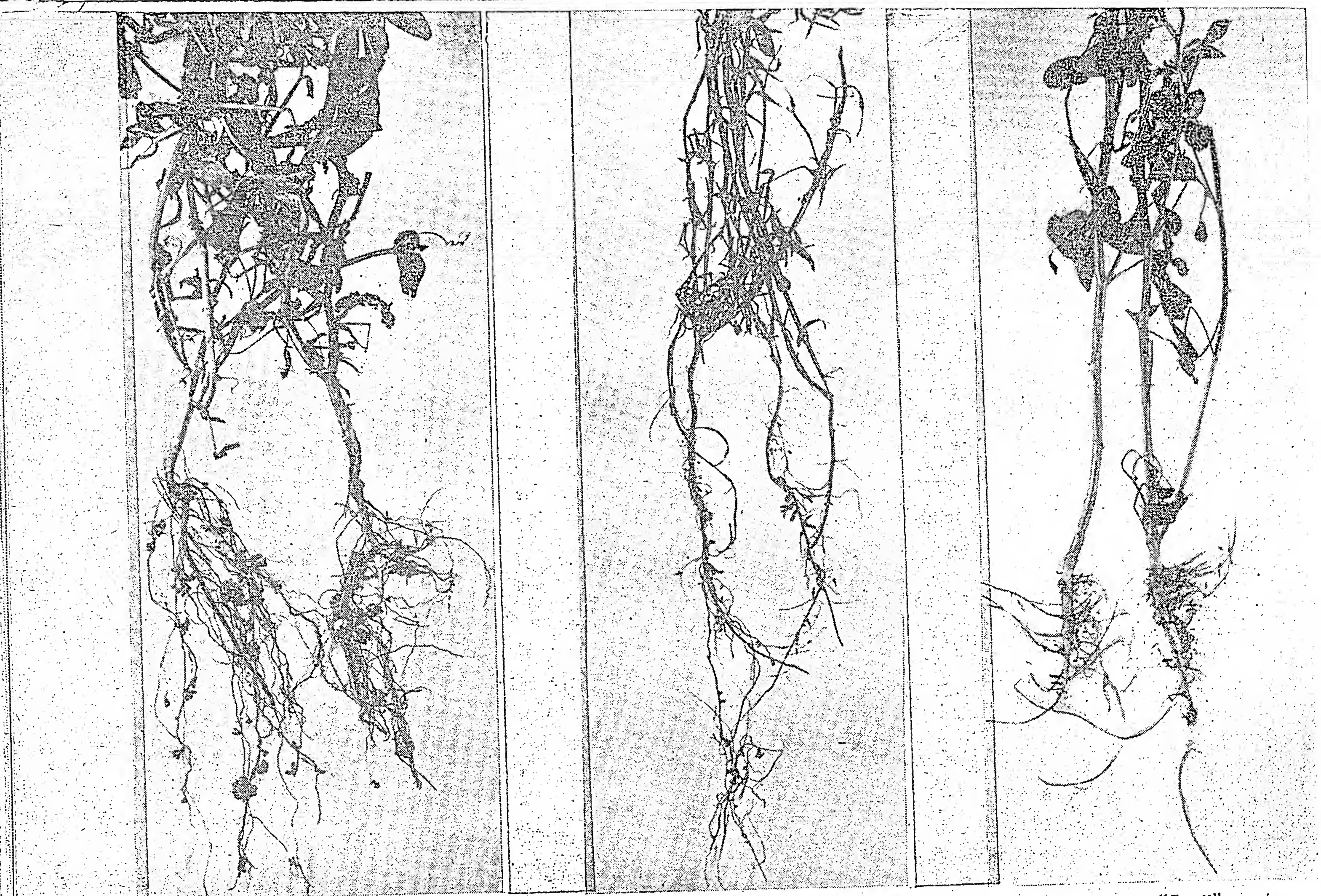
EXERCISE CAUTION IN USE

While research on the above lines is important in the chemical control of the insects, a note of warning should also be sounded in the use of these chemical insecticides. Great caution should be exercised in the use of these synthetics. For, it is now becoming increasingly evident that the indiscriminate use of more and more chemicals in a haphazard manner is creating fresh problems as fast as it is attempted to solve. The insect world, that is dynamic, is capable of producing and is, in fact, producing resistant varieties of species, which after some time, will defy the very poison to which they were so susceptible previously. Possible hazards in upsetting the biological balance in nature or in creating difficult problems of chronic toxicity to consumers of foodstuffs treated or even contaminated, with persistent insecticides as these recent synthetics also have to be carefully borne in mind. These considerations emphasize the need in plant protection work of well-trained technical personnel, who will be in a position to handle these insecticides with the proper discrimination and to the best effect.

IMPORTANT AND URGENT

Subscribers Please :

We have posted renewal reminders to all those readers whose subscriptions have already expired. It will be appreciated if we are advised of the renewal for the new Series Vol. II April 1952-March 1953. All remittances should be sent by M.O. or crossed P.O. in the name of the Agents. While remitting the subscription amount, please quote the subscription No.



Nodules on "Peas" roots *Nodules on "Khesari" roots* *Nodules on "Senji" roots*

DO CATCH CROPS PAY IN ROTATIONS?

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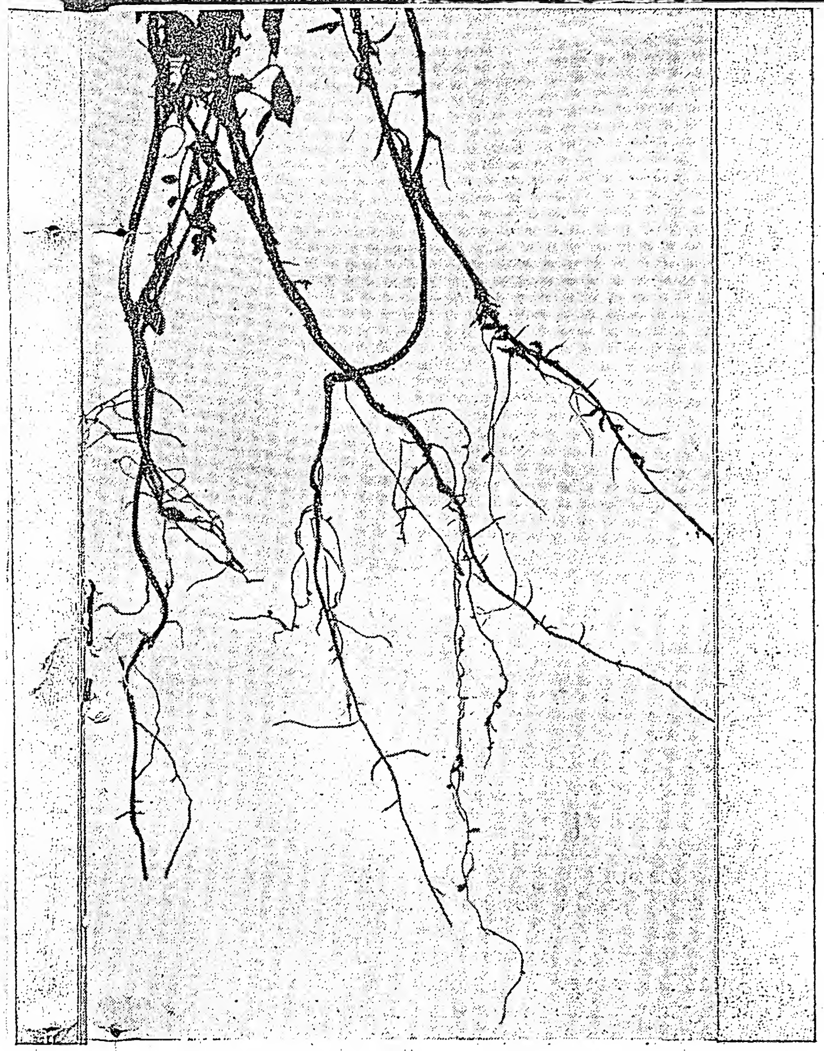
CATCH CROP DEFINED

A SHORT duration crop snatched or raised between two main crops is known as a catch crop. In India the two main crops seasons are *kharif* and *rabi*, when monsoon and winter crops respectively are grown. A catch crop in the normal arable farming is introduced in the period between the two main seasons, when usually the land lies fallow and contributes nothing directly towards the production on the farm. It may provide fodder for cattle, feed for milch stock or food for human beings. When land is left uncropped it gathers strength for future crops. A catch crop, in the interest of remunerative farming, should be such that it builds up the strength rather than exhausts the land of its valuable nitrogen ingredient. The inclusion of a suitable legume crop, which recuperates nitrogen in the soil, as a catch crop between the main cropping seasons is very helpful in preserving soil fertility as a complementary rather than competitive crop.

CATCH CROP REMUNERATIVE

In most parts of the Uttar Pradesh, the wheat tract of Madhya Pradesh, the Malwa plateau in Madhya Bharat and in Khandesh in Bombay State, the monsoon is conserved to take a crop of wheat. The early monsoon cannot be conserved as farmers seldom get an opportunity to cultivate their land, particularly on the black cotton soils. The seeped-in moisture is conserved when monsoon tends to weaken in the months of September. In the Uttar Pradesh the catch crop of *moong* is successfully cultivated on the early monsoon without exhausting the soil of its moisture or nitrogen. The crop yields about 6 md. of *moong* and the yield of the succeeding crop of wheat is enhanced by about 4 md. In the black cotton soils short duration groundnut, *moong* and *urid* do successfully precede the wheat crop and yield a supplementary income to the farmers.

The results of 9 years' experiments under irrigation on two rotations have been compiled to demonstrate that catch crops augment production and net income per acre per year :—



Nodules on "Lentil" roots

YIELD PER ACRE (MD.) AND NET RETURN FOR 9-YEAR PERIOD

Rotation	*Wheat*	*Cotton*	*Toria*	*Senji*	*Net Income per acre per annum in rupees*
1. Wheat-*toria* Cotton ..	23.8	11.2	9.3	..	66
2. Wheat-*toria* Cotton-*senji*	26.5	11.7	9.3	126.3	117

Obviously the inclusion of *senji* as catch crop made substantial contribution to production by increasing the yield of wheat by 2.7 md. and 126.3 md. of nutritious green fodder.

IMPORTANT FODDER CATCH CROPS

Some of the important fodder catch crops in the *kharif* season are cowpeas, *moth*, *guar* and *soyabean*. The hay prepared from cowpeas and *moth* is very palatable and nutritious particularly for milch stock. Where scarcity of water is experienced *guar* does better than the other three crops. Soyabean is very quick growing and can be easily grazed in the field. It does not require much of chopping. Sowing of these crops can be done very early in the *kharif* season under irrigation. Under monsoon the crops are ready for fodder in 8 to 12 weeks after sowing. All of these are legumes and, therefore, nutritious fodder for cattle. The fodder outturn of cowpeas at the I.A.R.I. farm are shown as under :—

FODDER AND GRAIN YIELD OF COWPEAS DURING THE PERIOD 1940 TO 1948

Fodder crop		Grain crop		
Crop duration in days	Average fodder yields md./acre	Crop duration in days	Average grain yield md./acre	Additional fodder yield md./acre
85.0±6.26	162.75±10	130.2±9.25	8.7±1.7	82.0±2.15

Cowpeas on the average required 12 weeks for fodder and 20 weeks for grain production. Sown for fodder in early July the fodder crop is harvested by middle of September. Thereafter land is prepared for succeeding wheat crop. The average yields of wheat after cowpeas fodder have been 22 md. as against 20 md. after fallow. Moth and soyabean hardly take 8 weeks for producing about 75 md. fodder yield. They leave more time for cultivation of land for the succeeding *rabi* cereal.

Sawank is non-leguminous catch crop which is extensively cultivated in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh under irrigation immediately after *rabi* harvest. The fodder crop matures in 40 to 50 days to provide green fodder in the early *kharif* season and 60 days for grain production. Sawank is generally raised as grain crop immediately after peas and harvested sufficiently before the *kharif* crop is sown.

In the winter season *methi*, *methra*, *senji* and *shaftal* are raised as catch crops. They are undersown in the standing crops of maize, cotton, *jowar* and *bajra*. They provide from 100 to 250 md. of green leguminous fodder without preparatory tillage or manuring. In the Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal green peas and *khesari* are cultivated as fodders after paddy and maize crops. They withstand delayed sowings and are able to mature as fodder without irrigation. The yields of late sown peas and *khesari* grain crops at I.A.R.I. which are mostly raised on residual monsoon moisture after the *kharif jowar* crop were as under :—

PEAS AND KHESARI YIELDS FOR GRAIN ON RESIDUAL SOIL MOISTURE

Crop	Mean date of sowing	Mean date of harvesting	No. of Crops	Mean grain yield md./acre
Peas	.. Nov. 16	March 26	9	19.03±1.77
Khesari	.. Nov. 21	May 5	3	9. 7±2.70

Obviously the yields of peas sown late after *kharif* were quite high. Khesari is less suitable to Delhi conditions. It is cultivated mostly in North-East India, where it yields as much as peas crop.

In South India black gram and green gram are taken as catch crops. Their requirements of water and manure are practically nil. They being leguminous crops, in fact, enrich the land. These crops on the average yield 5 md. per acre. For full utilization of residual moisture gram crop should be taken after the main season crop. The crop rotation experiments at Lyallpur have given more remunerative returns by inclusion of gram than by keeping the land fallow.

OUTTURN AND NET INCOME FOR THE 12 YEAR PERIOD

Rotation	Outturn of crops	Md.		Net income per acre per annum in rupees
	wheat	cotton	gram	
Wheat-Fallow Cotton ..	23.7	17.4	..	176
Wheat-Gram Cotton ..	24.0	13.4	21.3	184

Grain crop of gram compensated for the loss in yield in cotton crop and enhanced the net income per acre. In areas where winter rains are seldom received *arhar* is grown as a catch crop with *bajri*. The former utilizes the residual moisture and matures to give extra return.

OTHER BENEFITS

Substitution of a catch crop on a fallow reduces substantially rain water erosion from most of the rich flat lands. Such crops keep down weed growth when during monsoon most lands cannot be given frequent and timely cultivation. By including suitable legumes the fertility of the land is kept maintained. Growing of clovers particularly builds up soil structure. By including catch crops in the rotation the farm labour and bullock power remain engaged evenly and full throughout the year and the farmer obtains higher return on his capital. In the event of failure of rains in proper season the catch crop provides supplementary food for human beings and cattle. Catch crops such as *arhar*, gram, etc. are successfully grown on residual moisture after the *kharif* crop.

HINTS TO THE FARMER

(*Continued from page 9*)

for the same reason. Sowing should be done in 2 or 3 small lots rather than a large general sowing. This will ensure more regular supply of fresh vegetables.

Depth of sowing will depend on the size of the seed and type of the soil. As a general rule, covering should be 3-5 times the diameter of a single seed. A little deeper sowing should be done in the sandy soils than heavy soils.

(*iii*) *Apply irrigation with very fine spray and only enough to keep the soil moist* : Over irrigation is just as harmful as too little irrigation.

Transplanting should be done when the seedlings can be conveniently handled usually when they have developed 4-6 leaves. If possible, transplant on a cool and cloudy day or late in the afternoon. After transplanting land should be irrigated immediately.

Keep a few spare plants in the nursery to replace any casualities in the plot.

IRRIGATION

There is no hard and fast rule about the frequency of irrigation. Irrigation should normally be applied when the upper layer of the soil shows signs of drying up. Give deep irrigation so that the water permeates through the soil right down to the root level. Shallow irrigation which leaves the root zone dry is of no value.

HOEING AND WEEDING

Frequent hoeings are very essential. Hoeing helps in various ways—(*i*) weeds are removed; weeds rob the soil of the plant food, harbour pests and diseases, and if allowed to grow unchecked, smother the plants, (*ii*) the soil is opened up for better aeration and the root system develops and (*iii*) the evaporation of the soil moisture is considerably checked.

TOP DRESSING

One or two top dressings with quick acting nitrogenous fertilizers like ammonium sulphate will usually be of great value to the crop. Fertilizer should be applied near the root without coming in direct contact with the leaves. As already pointed out such fertilizers should be used very sparingly. A handful of ammonium sulphate is generally sufficient for one square yard of land. Mix the fertilizer in the soil by light hoeing and irrigate immediately afterwards. But the right time for top dressing is when the plants are well established and the growth is rapid, and also a little before flowering. At these periods the food requirements of the plants are high and a little extra nourishment will greatly help.

HARVESTING

Vegetables should be gathered frequently and not allowed to get coarse and stringy. If seed formation starts most of the food material is diverted to this process. The bearing period is, therefore, reduced.

CONTROL OF PESTS AND DISEASES

If the following precautions are taken the attacks of pests and diseases will be greatly reduced :

(*i*) *Use clean seed* : Select disease-resistant varieties.

(*ii*) *Use of unrotted farmyard manure should be avoided* : Unmade farmyard manure attracts white ants and other grubs. Also make sure that no diseased material is dumped into the compost pits, otherwise, it will serve as a source of infection to the plants when you use it.

(*iii*) *Practice rotation of crops* : It is important not only for maintaining fertility of the soil but also for the control of pests and diseases.

(*iv*) *Dust occasionally* : Occasional dusting with finely sieved wood ashes with little D. D. T. or Gammexane will keep away the insects. Again, be very careful in the use of insecticides. If overdone, they may also kill the insects which are essential for the fertilization of flowers. It is advisable to consult some expert such as a representative of Agricultural Department, before any large scale use of insecticides or fungicides is undertaken.

(*v*) *Clean cultivation and frequent hoeings will greatly help in keeping down insects and pests.*

(*vi*) *Over-growing in the nursery or the field should be avoided* : Free movement of air among the plants and easy availability of sun rays are very essential for healthy growth of the plants.

(*vii*) *Over-irrigation is always harmful* : Plants growing under too wet conditions do not show healthy growth.

(*viii*) *Uproot any diseased plants as soon as you see them* : Do not dump them in the compost pit. Burn or bury them.

(*ix*) *Avoid overdozing with nitrogenous fertilizers* : Feeding with too much of nitrogen results in soft, unhealthy, vegetative growth which is more readily attacked by pests and diseases. Phosphates and potash, on the other hand, help the plants to develop stronger tissues which resist the attack of pests and diseases.

CHART GIVING CULTIVATION DETAILS OF COMMON *RABI* VEGETABLES

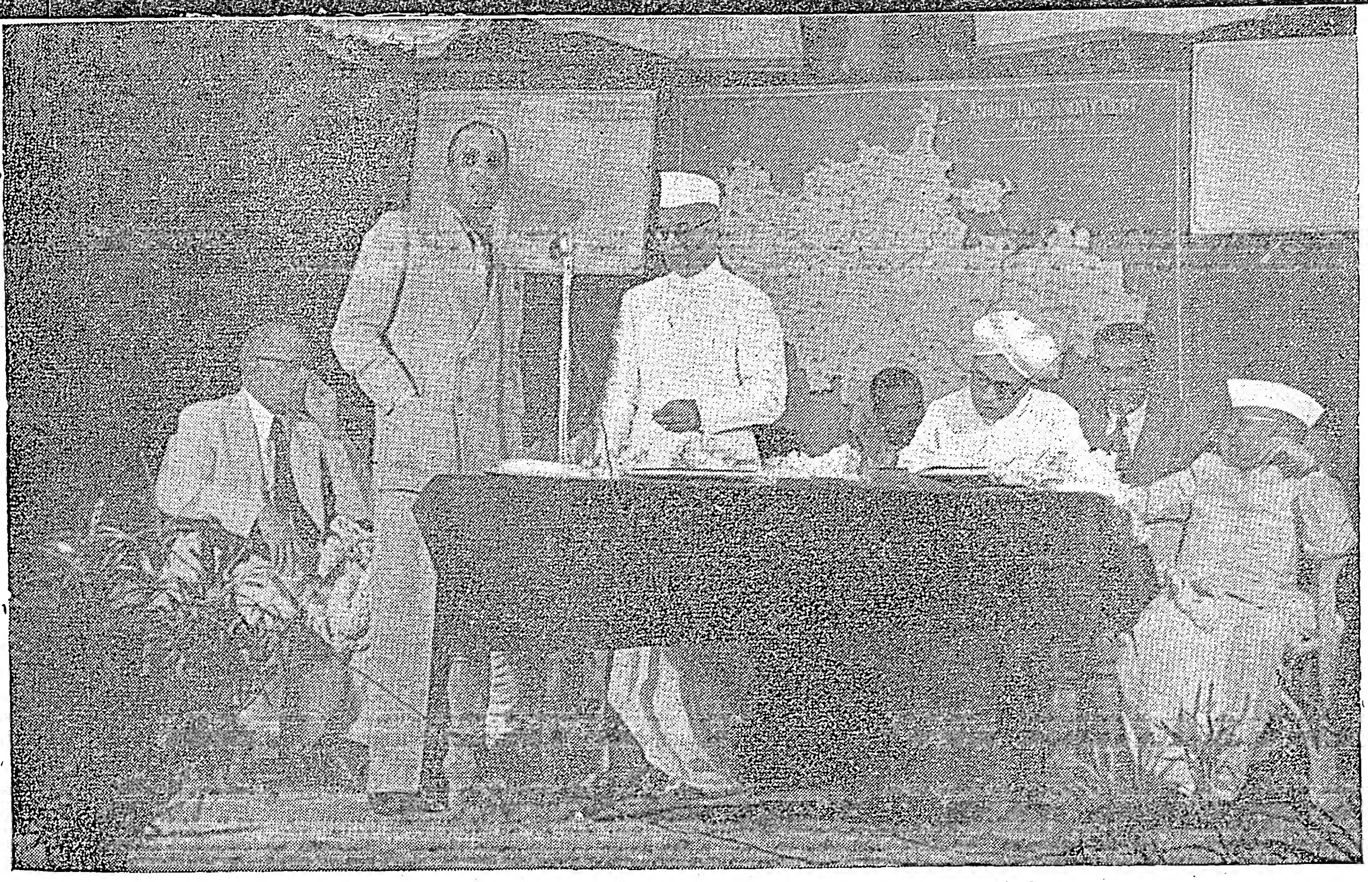
Name of the crop	Sowing season	Seed rate per acre	Method of sowing	Distance between rows	Distance between plants	Manuring (F.Y.M. cartloads)	Ready for harvest	Varieties recommended‡	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(*a*) **Root Crop**									
1. Potato (Alu)	Sept.-Oct. & Jan.-Feb.	6–9 Md.	D* On ridges	1½–2′	6–9″	30–40	Jan.-Apr., May	Gola, D. R. R. Phulwa, Simla special (up-to-date).	Golashould be planted early for January harvest followed by D.R.R. Simla special and Phulwa.
2. Carrots (Gajar)	Aug.–Jan.	6–8 sr.	D	9–12″	2–3″	20–25	Nov.–Apr.	"Denvers halflong" "Chanteney," "Early Nantes."	Thinning should be done early.
3. Turnip (Shalgam)	do.	1–1½ sr.	D	12–15″	4–6″	15–20	Oct.-Mar.	"Golden Ball" "Snow Ball," "Purple Top."	Do.
4. Radish (Muli)	do.	1½–2 sr.	D	9–12″	2–4″	do.	do.	"Red," "Long Red," "Cincinatti Market," "Scarlet globe (Round type.)"	Of round types only small sowings at 10–14 days interval should be done. They are ready in about 6 weeks.
5. Beet root (Chakandar)	Sept.–Dec.	6–8 sr.	N†or D	12–15″	4–6″	do	Dec.–March	"Crosby Egyptian," "Early Egyptian," "Crimson globe."	Thinning should be done early.
6. Onion (Piaz)	Sept.–Feb.	2–2½ sr.	N	6–9″	2–3″	25–30	Feb.–June	"Silver skin."	Transplant 6 to 8 weeks after sowing.
(*b*) **Fruit Bearing Crops**									
7. Peas (Matar)	Oct.–Nov.	8–10 sr.	D	2½–3′	2-3″	15–20	Jan.–March	"N.P. 29", "Hoshiarpuri" "Telephone," "Early Dwarf," "Laxtons progress" "Little Marble."	For tall types staking is necessary.
8. French beans (France beans)	Aug.–Oct.	10–12 sr.	D	2–2½′	9–12″	do.	do.	"Dwarf," "Yellow," "Canadian Red."	do.
9. Broad beans (sem)	Oct.–Nov.	do.	D	do.	do.	do.	do.	"79F", "Long pod," "Green long pod."	Staking is necessary

(*See overleaf*)

CHART GIVING CULTIVATION DETAILS OF COMMON *RABI* VEGETABLES

Name o the crop	Sowing season	Seed rate per acre	Method of sowing	Distance between rows	Distance between plants	Manuring (F.Y.M. carloads)	Ready for harvest	Varieties recommended‡	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10. Tomato (Timatar)	July.–Oct.	12–16 oz.	N	2½–3′	2–2½′	25–30	Nov.–April	"Siox", "Ponderosa" "Best of All", "Large red", "Marglobe", "Alliance."	Transplant six weeks after sowing. Plant should be protected against frost.
11. Brinjal (Bengan)	July–Sept.	do.	N	do.	do.	do.	Dec.–April	"Pusa purple", "Black beauty."	Transplant six to eight weeks after sowing.
(*c*) **Cauliflower & Cabbage family crops**									
12. Cauliflower (Phul Gobi)	June & Oct.–Nov.	8–12 oz.	N	2–2½′	1½–2′	30–40	Oct.–March	"Kataki", "All the year round", "Snow ball".	Only Kataki is sown in June. Transplant 6–8 weeks after sowing.
13. Cabbage (Band Gobi)	Oct.–Nov.	do.	N	do.	do.	25–30	Dec.–March	"Early Jersey Wakefield", "Copenhagen Market" "Savoy Drum head."	Transplant 6 to 8 weeks after sowing.
14. Knol Khol (Ganth Gobi)	Aug.–Oct.	do.	N	1–1¼′	4–6″	do.	do.	"White Vienna", "Early White Vienna", "King of Market".	do.
15. Brussel Sprout (Guncha Gobi)	Oct.–Nov.	do.	N	2–2½′	1½–2′	25–30	do.	..	do.
16. Broccoli	do.	do.	N	do.	do.	do.	do.	..	do. Remove central head and later side head.
(*d*) **Salad and leafy vegetables**									
17. Spinach (Palak)	Aug.–Jan.	10–12 sr.	D	9–12″	2–3″	15–20	Nov.–April	..	Also sown broadcast Thinning should be done early.
18. Fenugreek (Methi)	do.	9–12 sr.	D	do.	1–2″	do.	do.	..	do.
19. Lettuce (Salad)	Sept.–Dec.	4–6 oz.	N	12–18″	10–12″	do.	do.	..	..
(*e*) **Aromatic and Flavouring crops**									
20. Chillies (Lal Mirch)	May–June	1–2 sr.	N	1½–2′	1–1½′	10–15	Sept.–Feb.	..	..
21. Coriandar (Dhania)	Sept.–Nov.	8–12 sr.	D	1–1½′	6–8″	do.	Dec.–Feb.	..	Can be sown in rows also.

*D—Sown direct in the field. †N—Sown in nursery and then transplanted.
‡—Varieties recommended.—Only varieties tried in Division of Botany, I.A.R.I. and found good are mentioned here.



Shri K. M. Munshi inaugurates the "Key Farm" scheme at Hessarghatta

KEY FARM IN MYSORE

THE HON'BLE K. M. MUNSHI, Minister for Food & Agriculture, Government of India, inaugurated the "Key Farm" Scheme at Hessarghatta situated at a distance of 16 miles from Bangalore, on the evening of 27-4-52.

The "Key Village" at Hessarghatta is a compact area consisting of contiguous villages chosen for the Development of good cattle—specially Stud bulls. The scheme is a comprehensive plan jointly undertaken by the Union & State Governments on 75 : 25 basis for the first year and 50 : 50 basis for the subsequent years with a view to concentrating the available resources to a limited area for achieving quicker results so that the villages chosen may function as a supply base of bulls for other surrounding areas.

The Farm at Hessarghatta, which is a Composite Livestock Farm & Research Station is one of the two centres in Mysore State, the other being a Cattle Breeding Station at Ajjampur. About 24 villages have been chosen for the purpose in each Centre.

The work contemplated under the scheme in the two centres during the initial stages includes, among others, the starting of Veterinary Dispensaries, Survey of cattle population, distribution of stud bulls artificial insemination, opening of Calf Nurseries, and Go-sadans where unfit cattle will be maintained, so that they will no longer be a drain on the limited fodder resource of the villages.

According to Dr. P. M. Narainswamy Naidu, Director of Animal Husbandry Services in Mysore, States like Bombay and Madras, depend largely on Mysore cattle for their agricultural pursuits and it was estimated that Mysore exported annually about a hundred thousand pairs of bullocks to these two States. The cattle population within the State Boundaries amounted to 5.8 million head or 64 for every hundred human population. Despite such a large cattle population in the State its record of per capita consumption of milk is the lowest, and while the average annual production per head in India is less than 30 gallons, in Mysore it worked out to less than five gallons. The per capita consumption of milk is only about an ounce in the State compared to 5.6 ounces for the whole country.

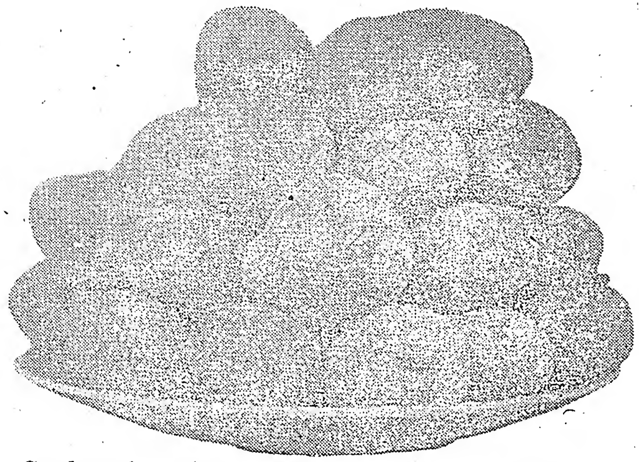
Inaugurating the Scheme, Shri Munshi paid a tribute to the State's Animal Husbandry organization which he considered as being far ahead of similar organizations in any other State in the country. Mysore, he said, is, perhaps, the only State which had strenuously tried to translate into action the Linlithgow Commission's recommendations to have a veterinary dispensary for every 25,000 head of cattle. He commended the efforts made at the Hessarghatta Farm, which he considered to be perhaps one of the potentially best multipurpose farms in the country, where the development of all species of animals was being carefully co-ordinated.

The need for protection and development of cattle in India is great and for this purpose, it is necessary among other things, to provide good stud bulls to eliminate cattle disease and to develop extensive pastures. Under the Key Village Scheme in another ten years it is hoped to produce 60,000 stud bulls.

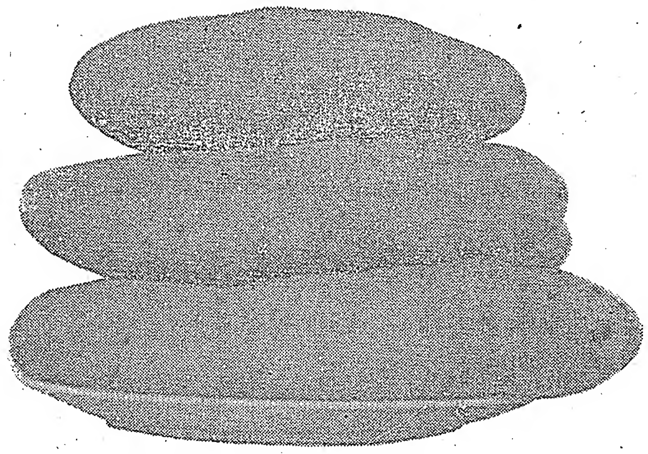
SEED POTATO DEVELOPMENT IN HIMACHAL

By

PUSHKAR NATH



Good seed stock of disease-free strain of Up-to-Date



"Delaware" produces large, long oval tubers. Each tuber may weigh 1-4 lb.

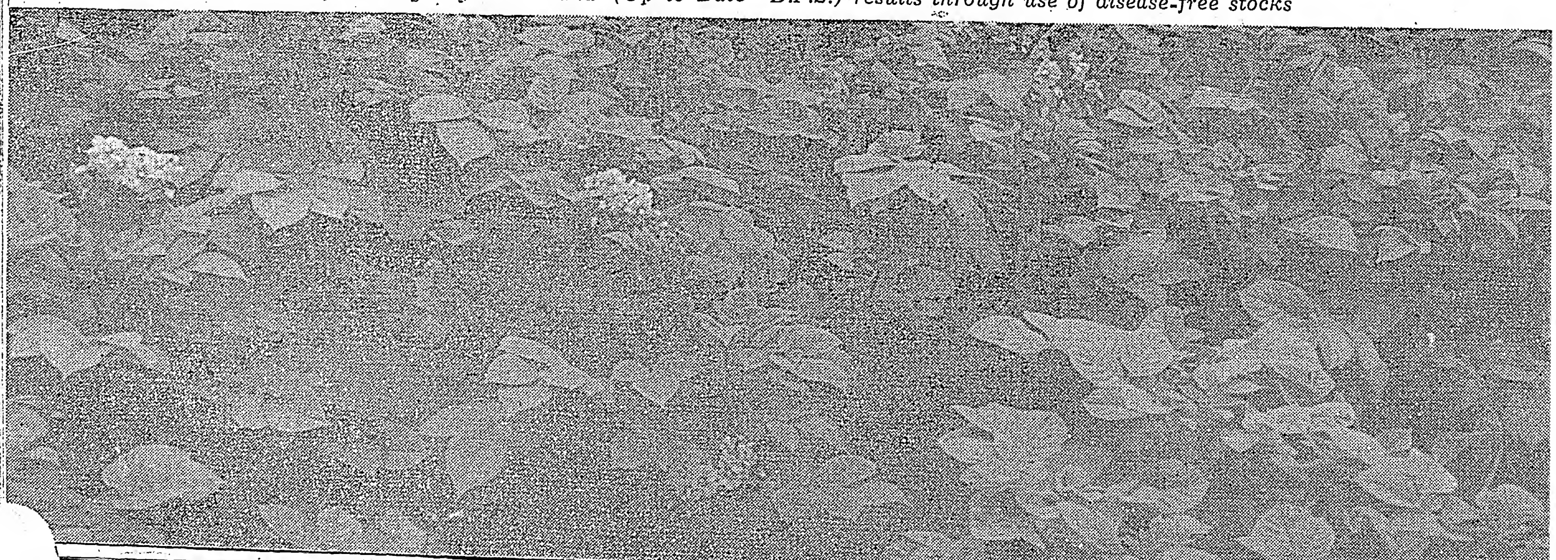
THE Scheme for Potato Development in Himachal Pradesh aims at stepping up yields by the application of scientific methods and organizing a planned system for production and standardization of seed potatoes. This scheme, which was initiated in 1949, has registered very good progress and is expected to meet the expenditure involved from the income anticipated.

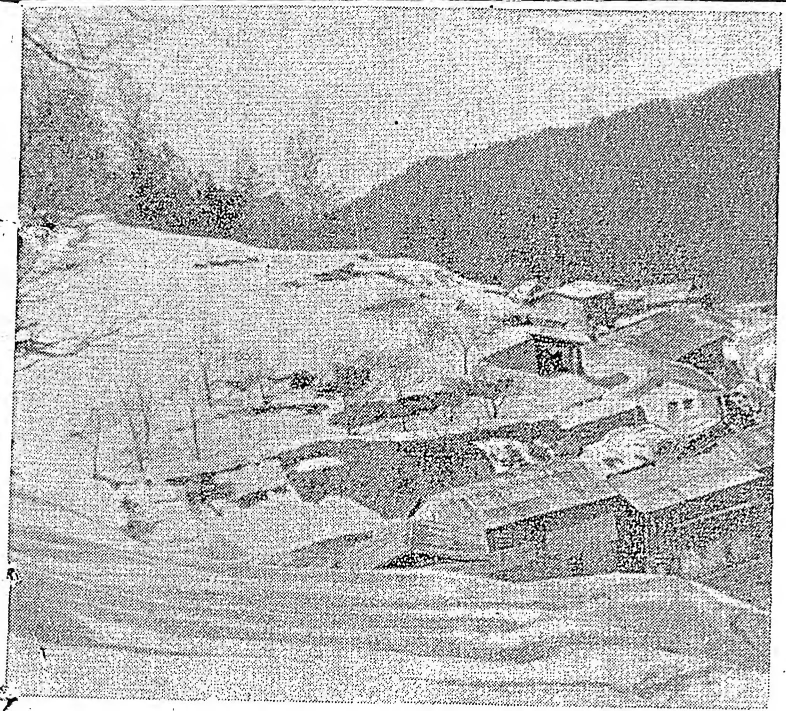
HIMACHAL—THE TRACT FOR QUALITY SEED POTATOES

Himachal enjoys an ideal climate which largely satisfies the technical requirements for production of high class seed. The State has already established a reputation for high grade seed potatoes. When, as a consequence of war, Bombay found its supplies of seed potatoes from abroad suddenly and completely stopped, it had to look to Himachal—although about 1,500 miles away—for seed potatoes. Why did Bombay not develop its own seed trade and build up a series of cold stores, or even secure stocks from the neighbouring provinces? The answer is simple. Due to high incidence of virus diseases (which will be referred to later), the seed stocks 'degenerated' and did not, therefore, give as good yields as the Himachal seed potatoes. Today Himachal supplies the needs of about 15,000 acres, more than $\frac{3}{4}$th of Bombay's *rabi* potato acreage.

Bombay is by no means the only State which appreciates the value of Himachal seed potatoes. West Bengal receives almost double the quantity exported to Bombay. Besides, most of the Central and South Indian territories, where seasonal conditions permit the use of Himachal seed potatoes, are drawing their share from this hill State.

Uniform, healthy vigorous stand (Up-to-Date D.F.S.) results through use of disease-free stocks





Severe winter followed by a cool summer, (usual at heights of Kufri), provides conditions to build up disease-free stocks

QUALITY SEED POTATOES DEFINED

Two essential requirements of seed potatoes are that (1) they should be true to the type and (2) free from 'degeneration' diseases. At present there exist no organized agencies which would guarantee both these demands. There prevails great confusion regarding the varieties under commercial use in this country. The same variety is often designated by several names and different varieties are grown under the same name. The prevalent varietal confusion not only largely nullifies production but is also a source of loss of capital to an already sorely tired cultivator. Selection of right type of varieties and their maintenance at a high level of purity at all stages of multiplication is, therefore, the first essential.

Choice of right type of varieties cannot by itself help if the stocks are 'degenerated'. 'Degeneration' of potato stocks is now known to be the result of a group of virus diseases which can be recognized in the growing stage of the crop by certain characteristic symptoms like mottling and deformation of leaves (crinkling and rolling of leaves). Diseased plants invariably show marked loss of vigour. In the field the diseased plants act as sources of fresh infection; and rapid dissemination of infection from the diseased to healthy plants is possible through the agency of certain sucking types of insects known as *aphids*. The number of virus diseases known to infect potato is large, but only four of these are important from the commercial point of view in this country. These, either individually or collectively, are responsible for rapid fall in yields. At present crops are riddled with virus diseases and it is a waste to spend money and energy on seed stocks not known to be disease-free.

Besides being 'true to type' and free from 'degeneration' diseases, quality seed potatoes must be properly graded and free from dust and other fungal and bacterial diseases which otherwise lower the value of stocks.

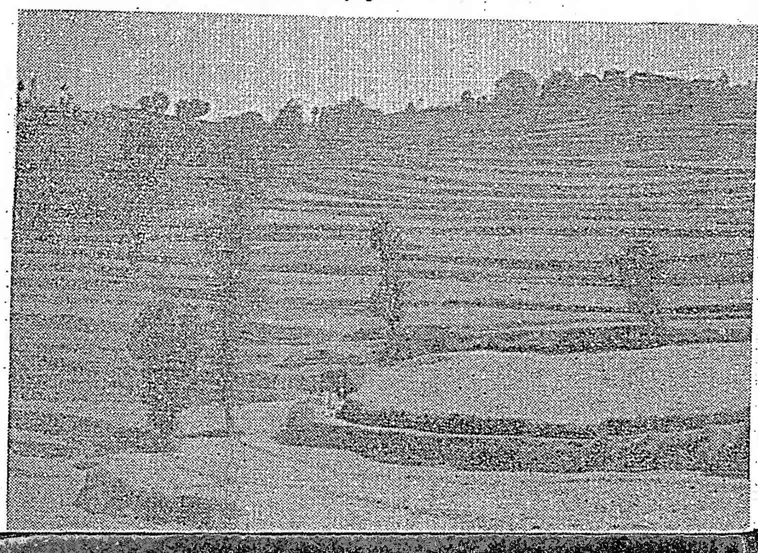
THE HIMACHAL SCHEME FOR SEED POTATO PRODUCTION

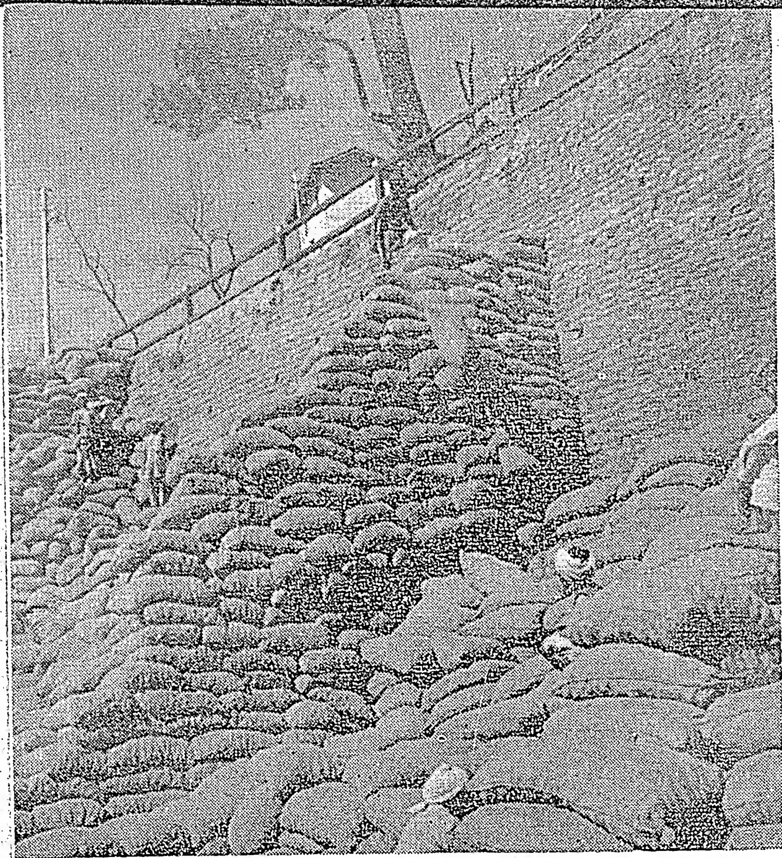
The Himachal Scheme undertakes to multiply the mother stocks from tested foundation stocks produced annually under expert supervision. This is being done by the cooperative effort of the Central Potato Research Institute and the Himachal Government—the former being responsible for the maintenance, testing and building up of foundation stocks and the latter for their multiplication and distribution. The various stages of work being:

Stage I—Testing and production of foundation stocks—Since the virus diseases are carried from diseased to healthy plants through the agency of small green flies known as *aphids*, it is, therefore, necessary to undertake the testing and building up of disease-free foundation stocks in such localities where natural incidence of *aphids* is low. *Aphids* can survive under a variety of climatic conditions and are particularly abundant in warmer regions thus rendering large part of the plains of India unsuitable for production of healthy seed stocks. Broadly speaking, the condition which must be fulfilled where *aphids* will not thrive are that the site must be cool and that it must be exposed to wind-conditions which retard or even prevent development of virus transmitting *aphids*. For these reasons the Potato Certification Substation of the Central Potato Research Institute has been located in the high hills (at an elevation of 8,500 ft. above sea level) on an exposed site at Kufri (Himachal Pradesh). At this station the technical staff is busy in building up and periodically testing in glass houses the foundation seed stocks of commercial varieties and hybrids needed for feeding the various development projects of the States.

Stage II—Multiplication of foundation stocks under departmental supervision—Having secured healthy foundation stocks (Stage I of the work) it was necessary to establish a chain of stations or centres for the multiplication of the seed stocks. Two such stations, one at Shilaroo (8,500 ft. above sea level in Mahasu District) and the other situated at an elevation of about 7,500 ft. near about Dalhousie in Chamba District have been established by the Himachal Government. The Himachal Scheme also provides for the setting up of additional Regional Stock Seed Multiplication Stations in such areas where the health standard of seed potatoes can be maintained.

Large scale multiplication is carried out in small, terraced holdings of growers





Endless piling and careless handling is a sure way to ruin good seed stocks

At the Regional Multiplication Stations, the technical staff undertakes (1) to maintain the purity and health standard of the varieties through an organized system of field inspections of the growing crop (2) to secure information of value by carrying out agronomic experiments of local interest (3) to educate the local growers in matters of seed potato production by organizing short practical courses at the Regional Stations (4) to organize and undertake inspection of crop in growers' holdings (Stage III of work).

Stage III—Multiplication in growers' holdings—The stocks secured under stage II are multiplied further in cultivators' holdings. There are two categories; 'Approved Stock Seed Growers' and the 'Registered Growers'. The former are the progressive growers round about each Regional Multiplication Station; and in return for the cheaper rates at which the seed is supplied to them, the Approved Growers undertake to work under the guidance and technical supervision of the Himachal Potato Development Organization and they also render necessary help in periodic inspections and in the removing of 'off type' plants, etc.

The crops raised by the 'Approved Growers' are subjected to close and periodic examination by the technical staff of the Himachal Potato Development Organization and, therefore, the standards of purity and health are nearly as good as the stocks multiplied under stage II of the work. The second category or the 'Registered Growers' receive the produce multiplied in the 'Approved Growers' holdings. If, as a result of crop examination (which is done once or twice during the season) the crops come up to the approved standards of health and purity, they are certified by the Department. For every maund of graded certified seed buyer will be expected to pay the premium of Re. 1; a sum which is to be shared equally by the department and the growers.

It would be seen that through all the stages of multiplication there is an annual replacement of seed stock and the flow of high quality seed potatoes from the original tested stocks, is a continuous and regular process. As the work develops, introduction of some sort of Seed Potato Act, which would make it obligatory on growers in specified zones to grow only healthy seed potatoes may also be necessary.

CHOICE OF VARIETIES

To begin with, the following varieties, are being multiplied:

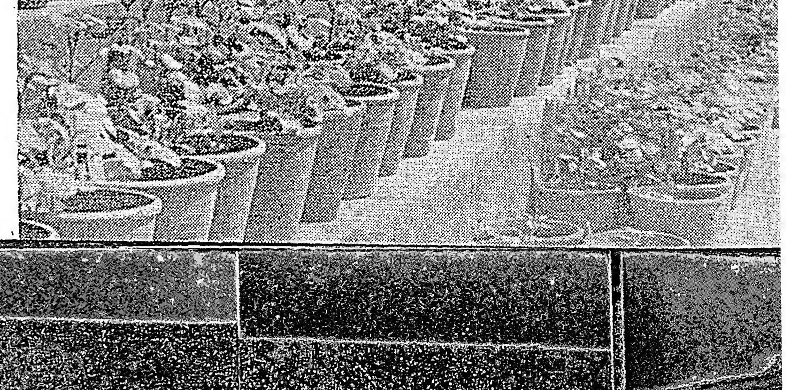
Up-to-Date (*disease-free strain*)—Excellent, large, oval tubers which this variety produces under a variety of environment conditions have won it a great popularity. It has a graceful, well balanced foliage which gives a good cover and the variety can thus bridge over short periods of drought. Good tuber production under varying day-lengths has made it possible to grow this variety both under long-summer-day in the hills where it is a main crop variety maturing in about five months, and also under short-winter-day conditions in the plains where it is an early type maturing in about three months. The only drawback of this variety is its extreme susceptibility to late-blight.

Craig's Defiance—This variety is field-immune to a number of virus diseases. Under field conditions, therefore, this variety can never be found infected with certain virus diseases. To such of the viruses to which it is susceptible it reacts markedly and shows distinct symptoms of mottling or rolling of leaves. It is, therefore, fairly easy for field inspectors to rogue out all the diseased plants and thus maintain high standards of health.

In a number of trials conducted by the Central Potato Research Institute this variety showed great promise in Bombay. It is an early maturing variety and responds favourably to short-day conditions. In the plains it matures slightly earlier than Up-to-Date. It has a short dormancy period and it may, therefore, be possible to grow this variety in such tracts where, for reasons of dormancy, hill produce cannot at present be used as seed.

It yields an excellent crop of large sized oval tubers of Up-to-Date type. It is rather more erect than Up-to-Date and can, therefore, be sown at a closer spacing. It has excellent keeping quality and can be easily transported over long distances.

Disease-free nucleus stocks are maintained and annually tested in glass houses at Simla



Recently it was distributed for multiplication to Approved Stock Seed Growers, but under certain soil conditions it develops (sometime extensively) rusty brown spottings (internal rust spots) throughout the flesh. Although the external appearance of the tubers or its keeping quality is almost unaffected, internal rust spotting lowers the commercial value of the produce. For this reason this variety has been withdrawn from general multiplication. It is available in small quantities and may yet prove valuable in tracts where it may not develop internal rust spotting. It is also susceptible to late-blight.

Hybrid 9—This hybrid, bred at the Potato Breeding Substation, Simla, has been selected for its yield and good keeping quality. It does not show any marked effect to virus diseases. It has excellent keeping quality and produces uniform grade of medium size round to oval tubers. Under wet conditions (common in Himachal) this variety, unlike Up-to-Date, does not rot easily. It can, therefore, be lifted later than Up-to-Date and Craig's Defiance. It is here thus that this variety scores over the other two varieties and it constitutes the potato for regions where transport facilities are not easily obtainable and where the clayey nature of the soil would not permit Up-to-Date to be grown. This, however, is not a variety suited for the plains. Unlike Up-to-Date and Craig's Defiance, Hybrid-9 shows considerable resistance to late-blight.

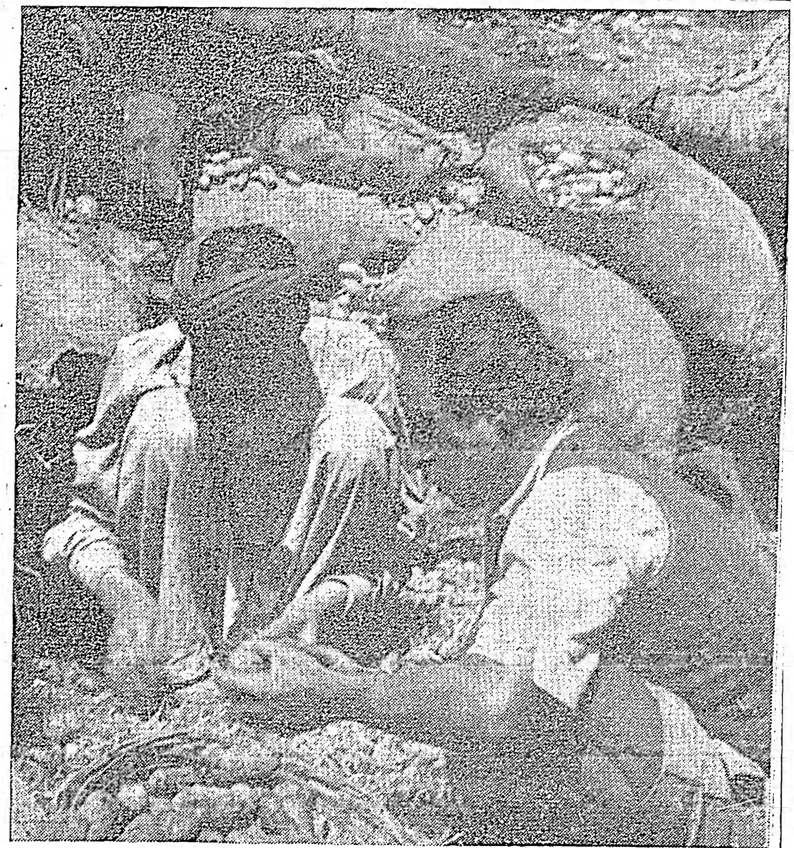
Delaware—This variety was introduced in 1950 from Australia. It gave excellent yields of very large sized, oval, flattened tubers of attractive shape. But both foliage and tubers being very highly susceptible to late-blight, and if infected with late-blight, a high percentage of large sized tubers may rot within a short time in storage. For high yield and excellent tuber size and shape this variety has much to its credit. It is earlier than Up-to-Date.

Under conditions prevalent in the plains where late-blight is not such a serious problem this variety has much to recommend itself. It reacts favourably to short-day conditions and produces a good crop of large and uniform grade of oval shaped tubers within about two to three months. As a substitute for 60-day *satha*, which yields only a low crop of small size tubers, this variety can be tried with confidence.

Besides the above three varieties search is being continuously made to evolve newer and select better varieties of potato and in this connection work is being done by the Central Potato Research Institute under a cooperative programme of applied research and development.

FIELD INSPECTION FOR VARIETAL PURITY AND VIRUS FREEDOM

In order to maintain the purity and, therefore, yield potential of the variety, it is necessary to inspect the growing crops from time to time and rogue out any 'off type' plants as and when recognized. Besides the varietal mixtures it is well known that most varieties throw out 'off type' plants called under different names, 'Bolters', 'Wildings', 'Semi-Wildings', etc. The reasons for frequent occurrence of such 'off type' plants are not very well understood but they can be recognized by trained persons by certain characteristic changes in the foliage and habit of the plant. Such plants



Bad storage results in heavy losses. No amount of sorting and desprouting can restore the vigour of seed stocks

generally yield many but small tubers which, in the subsequent generations yield crop which does not correspond to the parental type. A continuous and vigorous search is being maintained in foundation seed stocks.

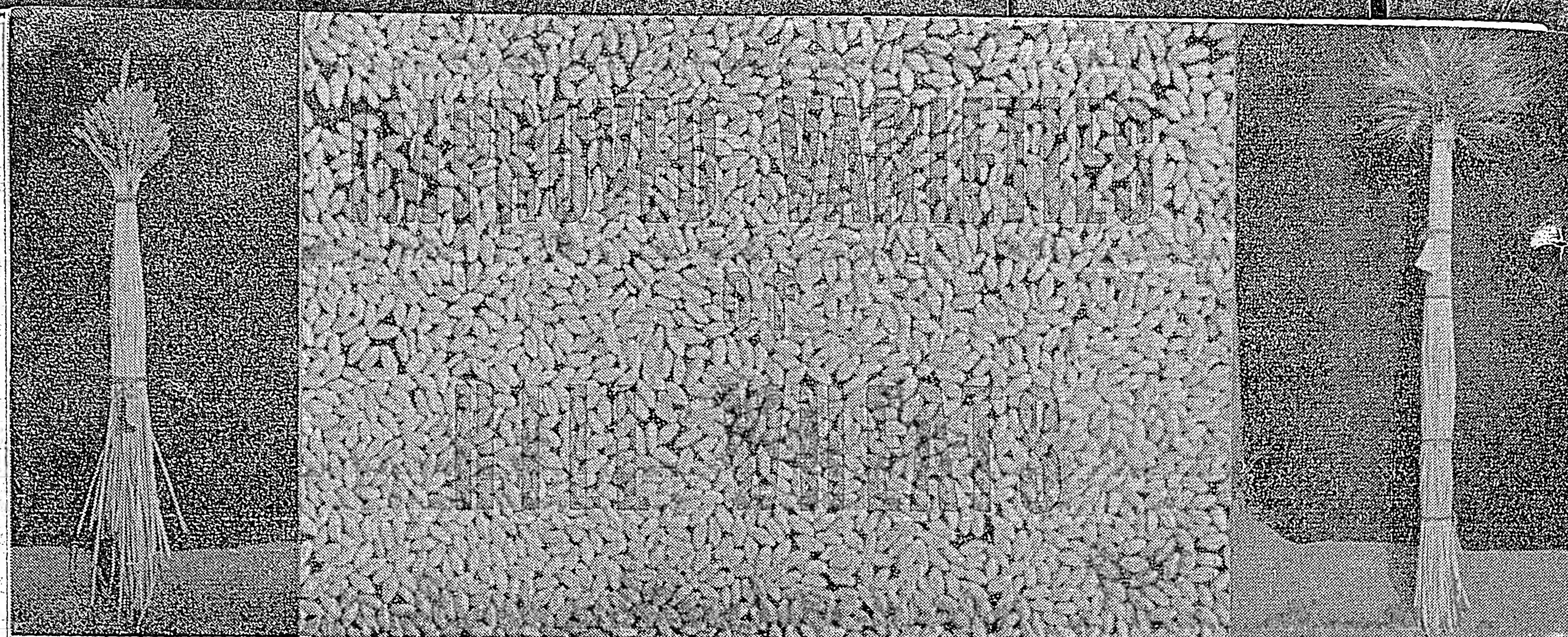
There are no practical methods known by which the virus can be killed or inactivated within the tuber. 'Once infected always diseased' is literally true. Periodic examination of the growing crops and 'roguing out' of diseased plants as and when they appear is at present the only practical way to maintain the health standards of the crop. A system of crop inspection on the lines similar to those operating in other progressive countries has been devised by which the crops at the Regional Multiplication Stations are examined 4-5 times during growing season, twice in 'Approved Stock Seed Growers' holdings and once in 'Registered Growers' plots.

As during the growing season several acres of crop have to be examined, it is not possible to do so with the small technical staff available on the pay rolls of the Government Department. Under the scheme, therefore, large number of suitable persons drawn from the local population will be trained and, after short periods of intensive training of 7-10 days at the Regional Multiplication Stations, sent out in batches under the supervision of the technical staff of the Department, to inspect and rogue out the crops and certify the produce for purity and disease.

SECURING AND SATISFYING NEW MARKETS

Freshly harvested potatoes would not sprout for 2-3 months and due to the limitations imposed by the dormancy of the tubers, Himachal potatoes cannot be utilized as seed by the nearer States of PEPSU, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The sowing season in these States begins in September when potatoes are

(*Continued on page 29*)



By

SATYA PRAKASH KOHLI

Wheat Breeding Substation, I.A.R.I., Simla

and

M. B. PATKAR

Himachal Department of Agriculture, Simla

WHEAT being the most important crop of north-western India, research work for breeding better quality and high-yielding varieties of wheat, that are resistant to the destructive ravages of the rust diseases, has been going on at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and several other centres.

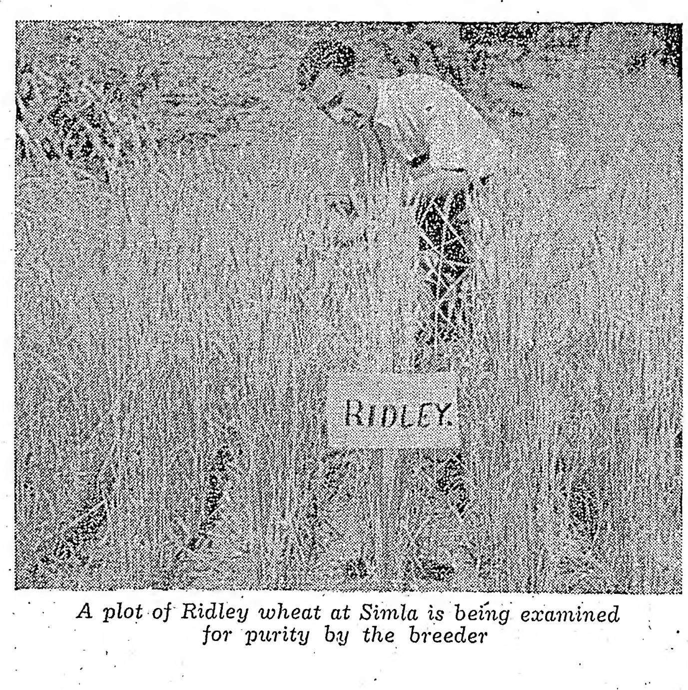
The studies of the wheat rusts in India have revealed that the Indian hill crops of wheat and barley serve as the major sources for the production of disease spores which are blown down by the wind from the somewhat early sown hill crops and also from "self-sown" plants of wheat and barley to the plain crops—normally sown a little later. This gives added importance to the necessity of the cultivation of resistant varieties of wheat and barley in the Indian hills. At Simla, the Wheat Breeding Substation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has, therefore, been concentrating on breeding rust-resistant strains of wheat and barley for the hills.

The research work at Simla has made available a number of new rust-resistant varieties of wheat, which, besides possessing a high degree of disease resistance, have been seen to combine agronomic suitability and grain quality with high yield. Through the cooperative arrangements with the Himachal Department of Agriculture, initiated in consultation with Dr. Pushkar Nath, observations have been made regarding the general adaptability of these wheats to the varying environmental conditions prevailing at different altitudes (varying from 1,500 to 9,000 feet above sea level) under which the wheat crop is being raised in Himachal. The cooperative trials so far conducted have clearly brought out the superiority of two varieties, viz. Ridley and N.P. 770, to the older varieties and unselected mixtures being grown in this state. Besides, the existing varieties under cultivation are highly susceptible to the attack of rusts and smuts. The cultivation of these new varieties of wheat, therefore, can safely be recommended for more than one reason.

A brief description and requirements of these new varieties of wheat may, therefore, interest the hill farmers and the extension workers.

Ridley: This is an acclimatized Australian variety of wheat introduced by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and selected after trials at the Wheat Breeding Substation, Simla. It has been tested at a number of hill stations in Himachal Pradesh and other places in the Union. It has been seen to possess a wide range of adaptability to soil and other environmental conditions. It has out-yielded the existing varieties of wheat in a majority of trials. Besides high yield, it possesses a high degree of resistance to rust as also to the loose smut disease.

Ridley is a hard, amber coloured and bold grained variety of wheat with smooth chaff and beardless heads. The plants are of medium height and stiff-strawed which make the variety resistant to lodging. These plant characters coupled with its good tillering capacity, dense ears and high test weight of grain, contribute to its high yield. Though medium late as regards earing period, it is a fairly early maturing variety of wheat.



A plot of Ridley wheat at Simla is being examined for purity by the breeder

It has been seen to respond favourably to earlier sowings too. Due to its high degree of resistance to black rust, it is also suited for cultivation in low altitude areas, where, this disease is more severe due to the higher temperature conditions prevailing at these places.

Though the present supplies of seed are limited, the Himachal Department of Agriculture is making every effort to make available large quantities of seed of this variety.

N. P. 770: This variety was bred by Dr. B. P. Pal from a cross between an Indian and a Japanese wheat. It has been tested for yield for a number of years both at Simla and at a number of places in Himachal. It has been seen to out-yield the local selections grown in this region. As previously mentioned these local varieties have been seen to be very highly susceptible to the rust and smut diseases. N. P. 770 under similar conditions has been seen to be highly resistant to the yellow rust and loose smut. At Simla, it has been seen to escape black rust which appears rather late in the wheat growing season and this variety has already ripened by that time.

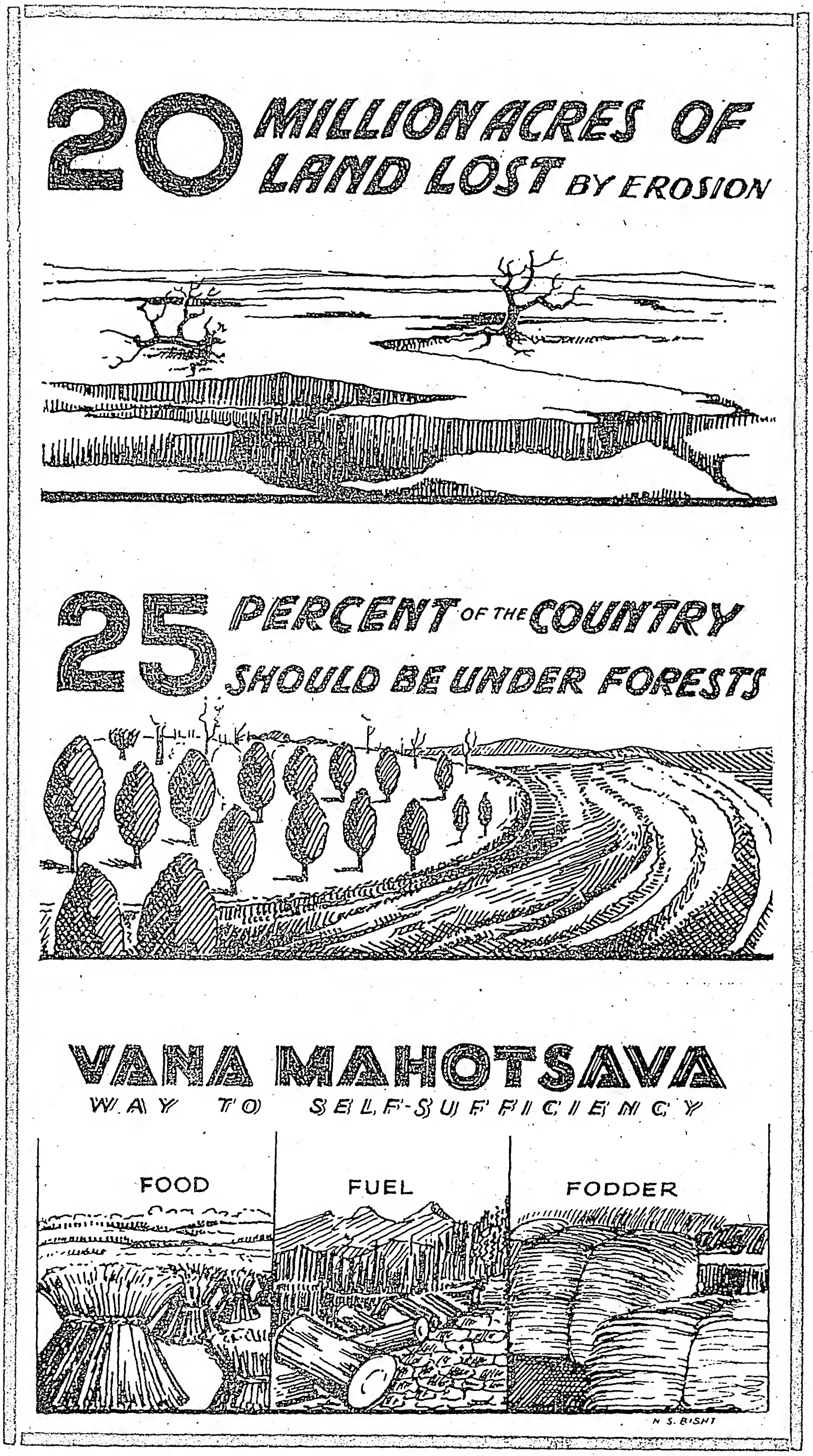
N. P. 770 is a hard, attractive and amber coloured wheat with hairy chaff and bearded ears. The latter assumes a drooping position and the awns turn somewhat darker in colour at maturity. The plants are tall growing and fairly stiff strawed to resist lodging. The high yield of the variety is due to its good tillering, vigorous growth, long ears and good test weight of grain. It is fairly early in maturity and does best when sown during the optimum sowing period. It does not respond well to very early sowings and at altitudes above 4,000 feet or so, sowings done after the first week of October have given bumper harvests. Its suitability to still lower altitudes is being investigated. Its early maturing habit and bearded characters make it particularly desirable for cultivation in areas where birds are a menace to the standing wheat crop.

The Himachal Department of Agriculture will now be in a position to meet the seed needs for this variety.

In view of the great need for improved varieties of wheat, it is hoped that all interested in the wheat cultivation work, both in Himachal and at other places in the Indian hills, will make the best use of the fruit of the much needed research.

N. P. 770 wheat in the variety plots at Simla

A NOTE ON VANA MAHOTSAVA



HARKIRAT SINGH

VANA Mahotsava—the Festival of Trees—is a programme of national reafforestation. It is one of the important national festivals and aims at making the public tree-conscious through public planting of trees by national leaders. It has assumed special significance in recent times due to widespread deforestation which has created desert conditions in large areas. In many parts of the country, lakhs of acres of land have lost their valuable topsoil by erosion caused by reckless destruction of trees. Erosion has eaten up the banks of most of our rivers causing floods in monsoon and water scarcity for the rest of the year. Indiscriminate cutting down of trees without a proper scheme for their regeneration has led to burning of cow-dung in the villages for want of fuel wood; our most valuable manure is thus being wasted away.

Trees give moisture to land, save land from erosion, give dry leaves for composts and rich fruits for food; they supply fuel for the villager. In addition, they impart beauty to their surroundings. It is, therefore, essential to plant more and more trees with a view to arresting the growth of expanding deserts, preventing large areas of land from being converted into waste by soil erosion, saving cow-dung for use as manure and augmenting food supplies of the country to avert famine.

The matter does not end there. Care of the trees planted is more important than even the planting of trees. Tree plantation has been enjoined as a sacred duty in Indian society and the task of preserving trees has been handed to us from time immemorial. Every single tree that is planted should be watered, preserved and protected. Nothing short of a comprehensive plan for the planting and preservation of trees would solve our difficulties of food, fodder and fuel.

MARKETING AND HANDLING OF COORG ORANGES

All Orange Research Scheme, Coorg

COORG is famous for its orange (Mandari) which is an attractive loose-skinned fruit of fairly good size with a pleasant taste and agreeable flavour. The marketing of the fruit was conducted in an unsystematic and haphazard manner involving a great loss to the growers. A scheme known as 'Orange Marketing Scheme, Coorg' was, therefore, sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The scheme was intended to examine the marketing conditions and to explore ways and means of profitable transportation and storage of the oranges.

Experiments on the packing of oranges revealed that the keeping quality of the fruit transported in boxes and baskets was better than that of the fruit transported in loose condition. It was found that no damage was caused in the former case while the later involved a loss of a little over one per cent per lorry load of the fruit. The bamboo baskets also proved suitable for transport to distant places.

A Cooperative Fruit Marketing Society called the Coorg Orange Growers' Society was also organized during the period of working of the Scheme. The Scheme proved extremely helpful to the Coorg orange growers. The propaganda work carried out by the Society enlightened all orange growers on market rates, demand and supply position, market trends and other matters generally relating to the orange trade. The Society has its sale depots at Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore and Tellicherry and possesses its own transport system.

Grading trials under AGMARK by hand grading showed that the sale of graded fruits wrapped in AGMARK tissue paper attracted a larger number of retail customers and fetched a better price than the ungraded oranges.

Experiments were also undertaken in cold storage of oranges. It was observed that the damage to the fruits in the cold storage at temperatures ranging between 39° F. to 43° F. for a period of 2½ months was about 15 per cent under conditions in which the experiment was undertaken. It was also noted that none of the fruit rotted within three days, that only 8.33 per cent rotted within four days and that 77.78 per cent of the fruit remained in good marketable condition even at the end of one week of their exposure to ordinary climate after their removal from cold storage. The experiments conducted in the laboratory of the Indian Institute of Food Technology, Mysore, conclusively proved that a squash of good quality could be prepared from the Coorg oranges. On the basis of this recommendation the Fruit Technologist of Coorg Government completed experiments on extraction and preservation of orange juice and other fruit products in his laboratory. The fruit products stood storage tests in Coorg and their quality was tested and well certified.

SEED POTATO DEVELOPMENT IN HIMACHAL

(*Continued from page 25*)

actually harvested in the hills. These States at present are, therefore, dependent mostly on Bihar for their seed stocks which are neither healthy nor cheap. Cold stores are, therefore, increasingly popular in the plains. Introduction and extension of cold storage facilities for preservation of seed potatoes is, at present, however, not likely to solve the problem of 'degeneration' of seed potatoes. Increased demands for Himachal seed potatoes is, therefore, assured if the difficulty arising out of the dormancy of tubers can be overcome.

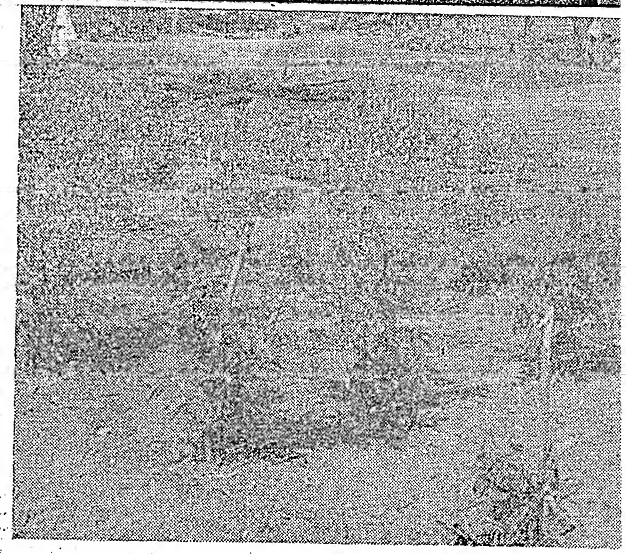
There are three ways to overcome this difficulty. Firstly, we know of certain chemical treatments, which help to break the dormancy of tubers. Thus, treating the tuber with vapours of Carbon disulphide or Ethylene chlorhydrin breaks the dormancy and the tubers begin to sprout about a week or ten days after the treatment. Experiments are in progress at the Central Potato Research Institute to determine how far it is possible as commercial proposition, to undertake chemical treatment for breaking dormancy.

A second and a useful dodge of surmounting the difficulty arising out of dormancy of tubers is to utilize, as seed, the early grown potatoes harvested in July. In Himachal, at lower elevation of about 4,000 to 5,000 ft. above sea level potatoes are planted in January-February and harvested by July. This crop, as is the popular belief, cannot be used as seed for it has poor keeping quality and, therefore, is known as *kuccha* crop. With the use of the right type of varieties and proper cultural treatments experiments have shown that there is no reason why this crop cannot be stored for about two months in higher elevations and later sent out as seed to such tracts where the produce of main September harvest cannot be used as seed.

A third and at present most practicable method is to utilize the Himachal produce for second crop in the plains. Sown from November to January such crop is lifted by the end of March. The seed size tubers from the once grown produce in the plains can be preserved for main September planting next year. This method has much to recommend itself for several reasons. As an instance, *Delaware* is a variety which

(*Continued on page 32*)

A vegetable kitchen garden (in the foreground)



A view of a kitchen garden

CITY FOLKS—GROW MORE FOOD

HUGH WALKER

THE city dwellers in Hyderabad have been given their share of responsibility in the "Grow More Food" programme and the kitchen gardens have become a regular weapon of great importance in the struggle for more production.

If you visit the home of the Ex-Chief Minister and the present Counsellor to the State Government Shri M. K. Vellodi and that of other top Government Officials, along with those of many average citizens, you will find laid out in a very neat form a real productive "Hyderabad Kitchen Garden"—a garden that has produced a year's supply of fresh vegetables for an average family.

The credit for this programme goes to Shri P. D. Nair, Director of Agriculture, hyderabad State and his horticultural staff who have prepared one of the most effective plans that you will find for the use of a small area for maximum food production anywhere. As a result of this practical approach, some 600 productive gardens of this type have come into existence in Hyderabad city within the past 18 months.

WHEN AND HOW TO GROW VEGETABLES

Sl. No.	Name	Method of sowing	Time of sowing	Distance between plants	Distance between Rows
1	Brinjal	Transplanted	June, July, December, March, April.	1½′	3′
2	Tomato	Do	Alround the year	2′	3′
3	Chillies (ordinary)	Do	July, August, Dec.	1′	2′
4	Capsicum (Giant chillies)	Do	Do	1′	2′
5	Cabbage	Do	October, January	1′½	1½′
6	Cauliflower	Do	August, December	1½′	1½′
7	Knol Khol	Do	August to February	¾′	1½′
8	Lady's Finger	Dibbled in situ	Alround the year	1½′	2′
9	Cluster Beans	Do	Do	1½′	3′
10	Cowpea	Do	Do	1′	3′
11	French Beans	Do	June, July, Dec, January	1½′	1½′
12	Soya Beans	Do	Do	1½′	1½′
13	Peas	Do	August, Oct. January	6″	6″
14	Ribed Gourd	Do 4–5 seeds in pits (6.8 feet part) 2 × 2′	July, December		
15	Snake Gourd	Do			
16	Bottle gourd	Do			
17	Bitter gourd	Do			
18	Pumpkin	Do			
19	Ash Gourd	Do			
20	Dolichos Lablab (sem)	Do			
21	Cucumber	Do	February, March, May		
22	Squash	Do	June, July, Dec. January		
23	Greens (Baji)	Broadcast and thinly cover with soil	Alround the year	6″	6″
24	Palak (Indian Spinach)	Do	Do	6″	6″
25	Ambade (Gogu)	Do	Do	6″	6″
26	Lettuce	Transplanted	August, December	½′	1½′
27	Beet root	Dibbled	September, December	4″	1½′
28	Radish	Do	Alround the year	½′	1′
29	Carrot	Seeds mixed with fine sand and sown in rows	July to February	4″	1′
30	Turnip	Do	July, December	6″	1½′
31	Onion	Transplanted	Oct. July, Nov. March	½′	¾′

———x———

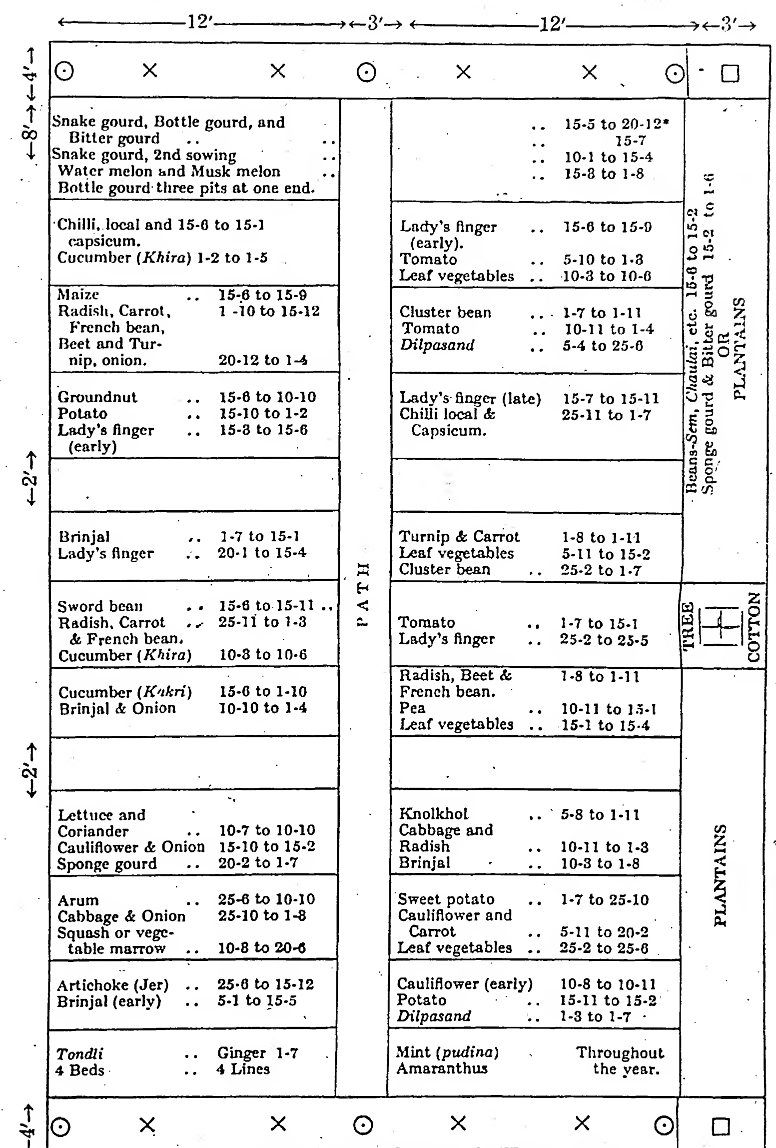
The important feature of this type of garden is that it is planned in such a way that it gives maximum production on a minimum area and yet the supply of any one item of produce seldom is greater than that required by the family. It calls for small plots which may be replanted regularly and thus yield continuously rather than supplying of an enormous quantity of a particular vegetable at one time which cannot be utilized and thus becomes a waste.

The garden itself may vary in size or shape, but you will find all the space utilized in every instance around the edge of the garden where papayas, plantains, and climbing vegetables such as beans and gourds are planted. The remainder of the space is divided into small plots generally about 12ft. x 8ft.

To insure a ready and reliable supply of plants and seed, the Department of Agriculture has established a seed store and a nursery which has all kinds of seeds and seedlings required for an average garden along with a seasonal supply of healthy and vigorous plants that are ready to go into the gardens. This enables a person with a small area to utilize the entire amount of space for production rather than using some of it for seed bed or plant production.

These gardens are planned for family units and as such they are suitable for use of family labour. It is not at all uncommon to find the entire family out working in their kitchen gardens. And that is the way it was intended. If you and your family want to contribute to the "Grow More Food" programme you might grow a "Hyderabad Kitchen Garden".

PLAN OF HYDERABAD KITCHEN GARDEN



* The figures refer to approximate dates of sowing and final removal of crop.

⊙ PAPAYA. × GARDEN TUR. □ TAPIOCA.

MARKET NEWS SERVICE FOR FARMERS

(*Continued from page 12*)

true that the factors that have been responsible for the efficient operation of the Service in the U. S. A. are lacking in our country. However, a modest beginning can be made and service expanded and improved as conditions with regard to communications and other market facilities improve. Our farmers are illiterate and dissemination of market information through newspapers and bulletin boards may serve little purpose. The lack of radio communication in rural areas also makes it difficult to reach the farmer. Under the circumstances, therefore, the best thing would be to make arrangements for dissemination of market news gathered by an unbiased agency through the loud speakers in the market place every morning before the sales begin and also at the close of the market when farmers leave for their villages. This could be easily adopted at a very low cost in the village markets particularly in the States where regulated markets are functioning. The information given out in the morning should contain price quotations of the previous day of the local and the nearest distributing or terminal markets. In the evening, news of the day's quotation and other available information may be announced. The farmers on their return journey may help in the dissemination of reliable market news by word of mouth.

(*Continued from page 29*)

reacts favourably to high temperature and can be sown slightly early. It would mature within a short period of 50-60 days. In tracts like Biharsharif in the State of Bihar where cultivators specialize in growing 60-days *satha* for early market, *Delaware* is not only expected to give earlier crops than *satha* but yields much larger crop of good sized tubers. Here the difficulty in securing seed stocks can be overcome by annually importing stocks from Himachal for November planting and at harvest, in March next, preserving seed sized tubers for early planting next season.

GRADING, STANDARDIZATION AND MARKETING

Grading and standardization of the produce helps to sell the goods on the basis of their description and is one of the important principles of modern commerce. It induces confidence among the buyers and thus assures good markets.

Apart from the purely commercial aspects, grading and standardization is also necessary if the potatoes are offered for sale as seed, for it is not all sizes that would be economical for seed purposes. The requirements of different tracts are also different. In some places seasonal conditions would not permit cut tubers to be planted and here small sized whole tubers are preferred as seed. Again, in certain areas, as in Bombay, it has been found profitable to cut the tubers and the most economical size is a tuber weighing about four to six ounces which will, on cutting, yield four solid seed pieces. Keeping the above factors in view it is necessary to grade the potatoes according to some recognized and definite standards which aim at satisfying varying needs of buyers.

Hitherto in Himachal three commercial grades (Lambri, Phool and Rashan) based on size of tubers are loosely recognized by the trade. No specifications of standards are adopted by the trade to eliminate dust, dirt, damaged or otherwise diseased tubers from any of the above grades. In fact, no bag of tubers may be seen which does not contain besides lot of dirt and dust, a high percentage of diseased or damaged tubers. No regard is paid to the variety or freedom from disease.

Under the scheme the grower will be expected to grade stocks in accordance with the standards laid down by the Department and carry his produce and certificate of health and purity to the assembling centres of the cooperative societies. If the grades conform to the standards of the stocks at the assembling centres, it is the intention to pack the produce in special gunny bags, each bag displaying on it the name of variety, the grade of potato and the year of certification.

The success of the scheme to a large measure, is due to the great and personal interest which the officers of the Himachal Potato Development Scheme have taken and I am highly grateful to them.

Regd. No. B 6082

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE "GROW MORE FOOD" PLANS

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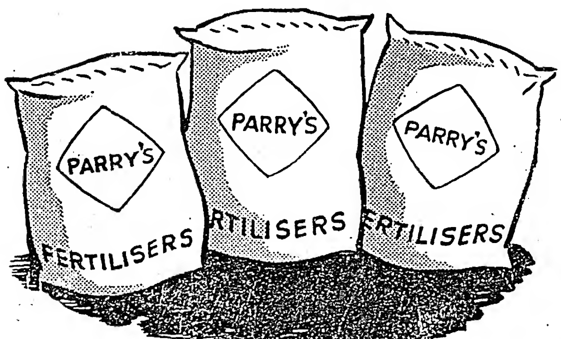
As a result of this continuous experimentation, PARRYS now offer to Farmers separate Special Complete Fertilisers for every crop.
Advice on any particular problem regarding fertilisers will be gladly given by our Agricultural Technical Staff.



In countries such as India, Diesel Oil Engines are adversely affected by dust which is so often present in the air. This also applies to mills, such as flour mills, where dust from the material which is being ground is ever prevalent.
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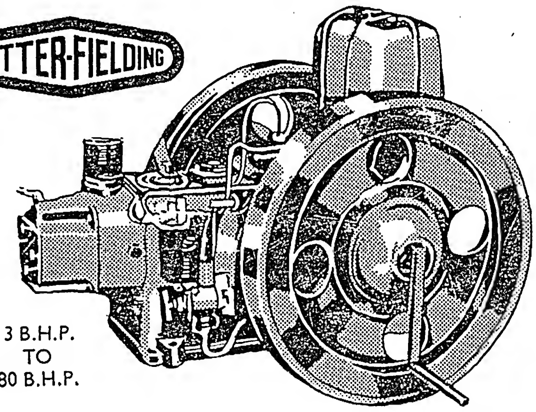

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TO
80 B.H.P.

Cost is reduced, because there are no old fashioned lubricators to break and all parts are kept free from the slow, but sure, damaging effects of dust. This Petter-Fielding-Engine is available from the Sole Agents in India, Parry & Co., Ltd., and is ready to supply Agriculturists with DIESEL HORSE POWER at the cheapest price in the World. From 13 B. H. P. upto 80 B. H. P.

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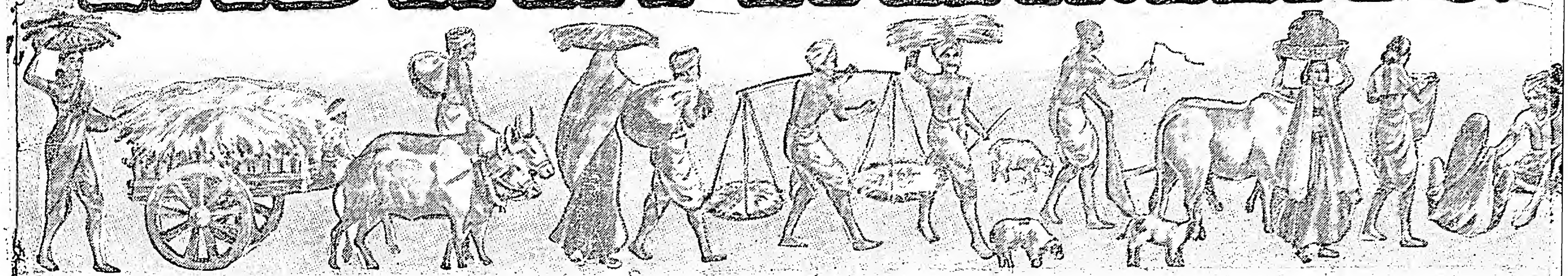
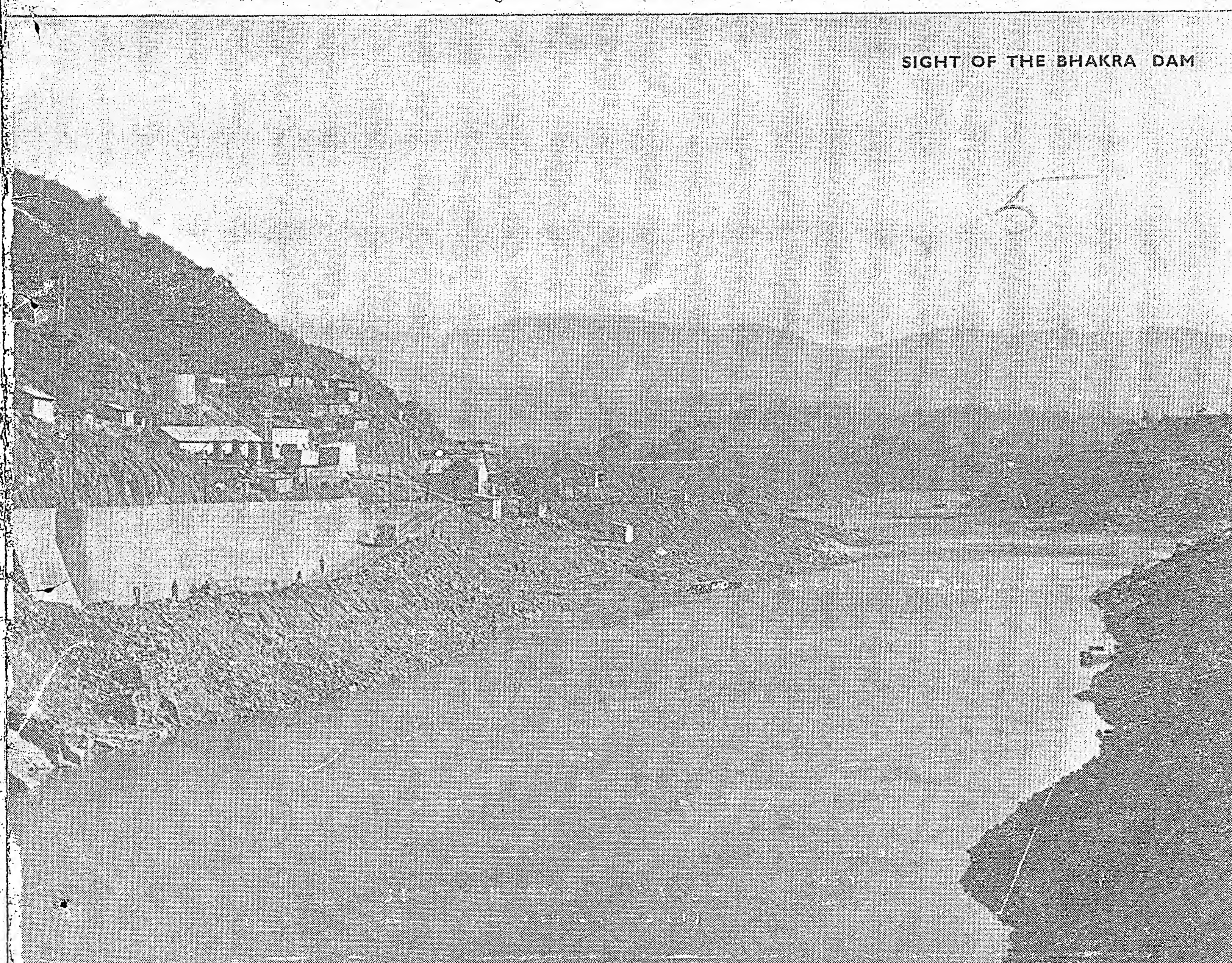
INDIAN FARMING





SIGHT OF THE BHAKRA DAM

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INDIAN FARMING

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EDITORIAL BOARD

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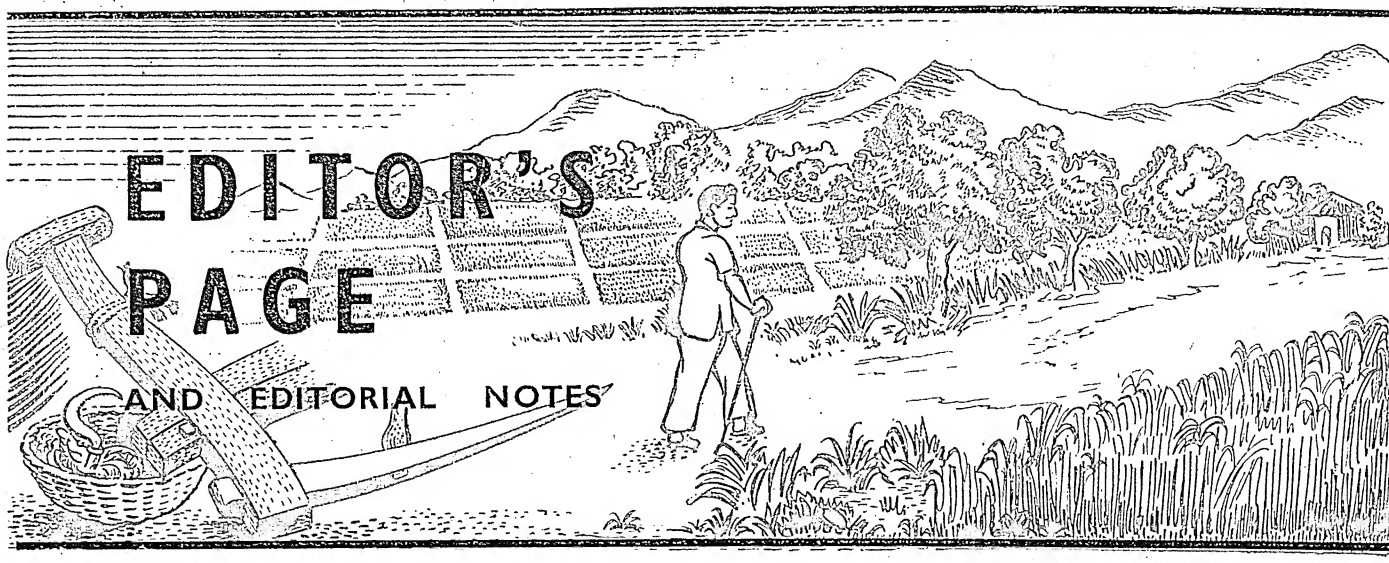


GOALS: PEOPLE AND PRODUCTION

Nothing will be achieved by discussing the relative importance of essential objectives in village development work. It is enough that the objectives are essential, and must, therefore, be pursued. There is some danger, however, that the urgent goal of increased farm production will cause us to neglect the equally urgent need for the development of leadership among producers.

Fortunately, leadership training can be a painless by-product of any community improvement effort. Yet it is important that extension workers are reminded that leadership development is one of the main products of their efforts.

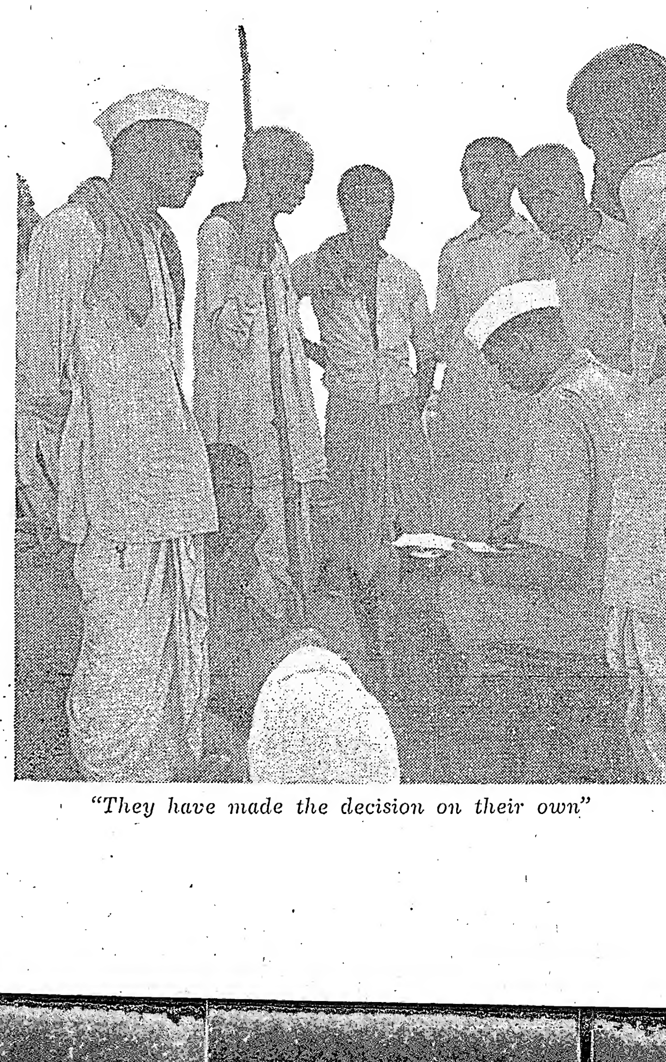
It has been agreed by all in community development work that villagers must be helped to help themselves. It has been agreed that simply giving villagers instruction will have no enduring benefits.

When villagers help themselves, they must assume responsibility for group action. Assuming this responsibility is an elementary leadership activity. Discharging the responsibility is a demonstration of real leadership.

How are villagers trained to assume responsibility for group action? In order for a leader to develop leadership he must be satisfied to allow others to assume important responsibilities, and must be satisfied to see others receive credit for work which he himself could have done.

REDUCING RESISTANCE

From the very first approach to the village the extension worker must be determined to stimulate action by the villagers and to stimulate certain villagers to assume the leadership for this action. Experience has shown that the most difficult job in developing leadership is breaking down the first resistance to responsibility. Once this first resistance is removed, local people with leadership abilities will spring up surprisingly fast.



"They have made the decision on their own"

"People with leadership ability will spring up..."

How is resistance to leadership responsibilities broken? There are many answers to this question; but in general the village worker must seek problems for village solution which groups in the village are genuinely interested in solving. Suppose he finds, for example, that the villagers believe that one of their biggest problems is the difficulty with which water is lifted from the village well. The village worker does not say to the villagers that they have other problems more important which need attention. He accepts this decision of the villagers and immediately begins a programme for stimulating group solution to the problem.

PATIENCE NEEDED

The extension worker does not do the easy thing and dictate answers. Rather, he depends upon the villagers themselves to find the answer. He encourages everybody to offer their solution. When, for example, it may be generally agreed that a new rope and a pulley should be bought and installed over the well, the extension worker accepts this decision if the majority of those he is working with sincerely believe it is the right answer. He is performing one of the first steps in developing leadership; in helping villagers to help themselves. They have made the decision on their own. His next step is to get them to act upon this decision. Money must be obtained for buying the rope and the pulley. The easy way will be for the extension worker to collect this money himself. The easy way seldom develops leadership.

The village worker must be patient, for these first efforts will be slow. But as soon as some of the members

(*Continued on page 32*)

THE MAN OF THE MONTH

BISHAN MANSINGH OF FATEHPUR STILL YOUNG AT SIXTY-ONE!

THERE are three towns of Fatehpur in India, but there is only one Bishan Mansingh of Fatehpur who is one of the outstanding farmers of India. Mansingh's Fatehpur lies on the Delhi-Calcutta line between Kanpur and Allahabad on the Eastern Railway.

A graduate in history, Bishan Mansingh's experience of practical agriculture extends to nearly 40 years. Still young at 61, his views command respect not only in the councils of his home state of Uttar Pradesh, but even in the Central Government. He is a member of the Panel of Agriculture of the Planning Commission and of the Board of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh Government. There isn't a subject connected with agriculture in India on which Bishan Mansingh hasn't something useful to say based on his own experience, nor are there many agricultural matters on which he hasn't contributed articles to the press. He has taken many agricultural problems in his stride, soil erosion, agricultural implements, the rotation and water requirements of crops, forestry and land reclamation; there is probably hardly any other farmer in the country with a more intimate knowledge of the organisation of agricultural departments in India.

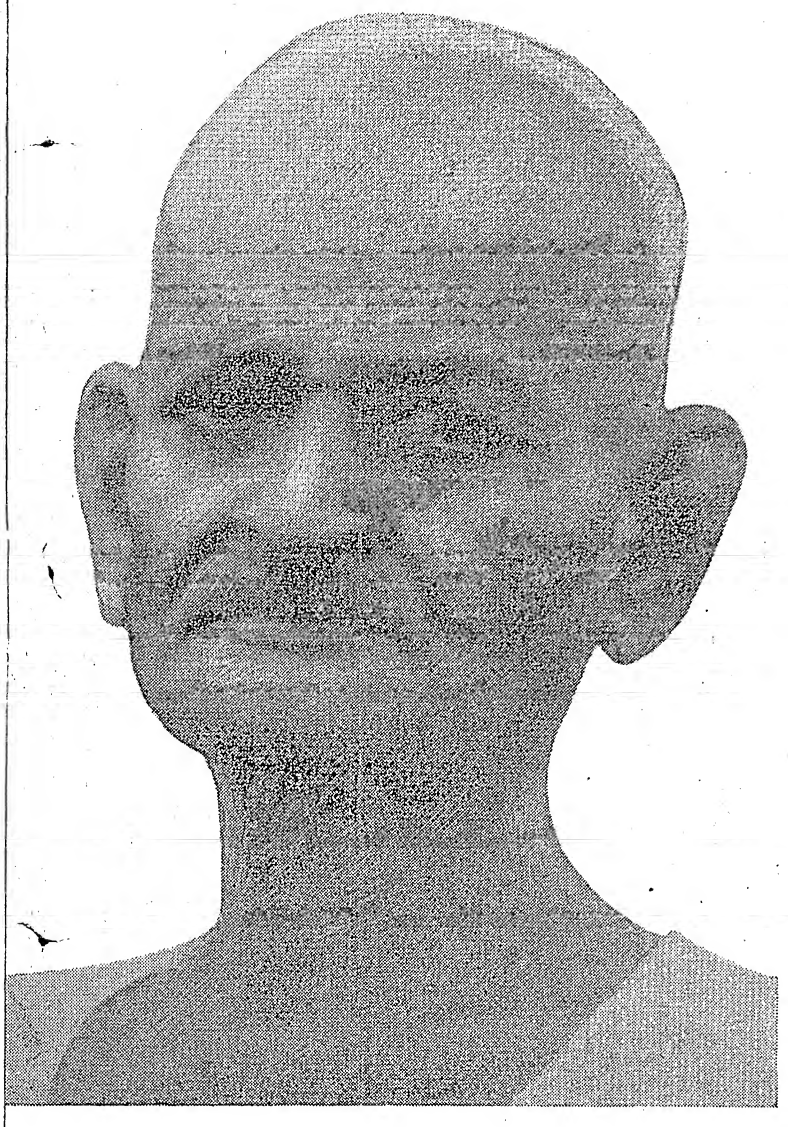
PIONEER IN USAR RECLAMATION

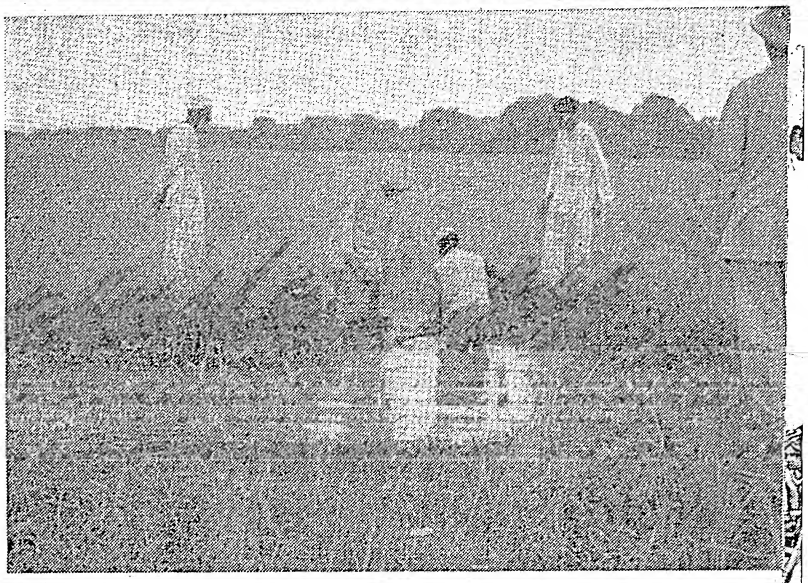
I met this remarkable farmer in his home town last September. Bishan Mansingh received me at the railway station, and as we drove in his car to his small house about five miles away, he kept up a running commentary on his farms, the years of hard work he had put in, and the returns that he had got not only in terms of money, but what was incalculable, in the experiences he had gained. This latter he is keen to pass on to other agriculturists "faced with problems similar to mine." Running through all his talk, was one dominant note, of gratitude to his father who was a pioneer in the work of reclaiming *usar* land.

Usar land, as found in Uttar Pradesh, is unproductive land, made up of deep layers of stiff, heavy, poorly aerated clay, devoid of all humus and containing large amounts of salts which are injurious to all kinds of vegetation.

It was in the late nineties of the last century, Bishan Mansingh, explained to me, that his father the late Ishwar Sahai started cattle breeding on his Habeeb Farm. Soon he was up against the need for cheap fodder and a grazing ground for his herd. For this he turned to a fairly large plot of *usar* land in his village. The land was surrounded with low embankments, designed more to demarcate the area, but they also served to hold rain water which helped to wash away the injurious salts from the soil. Gradually perennial weeds like *kans* began to appear and their growth was encouraged; at the same time grazing was regulated so that the grasses might thrive and the fodder made to last longer. Seeds of *babul* were sown during the rains year after year; despite heavy mortalities, the practice was continued, till in about 10 years, a good *babul* plantation had come up with a luxuriant undergrowth of grasses of various kinds and perennial weeds. These opened up the soil.

In 1916, the young college graduate, Bishan Mansingh, who had till then watched his father at reclamation work, with interest, literally "took off his





Every drop of water is conserved on the farm. Rain water stored is being used to irrigate a paddy field

coat" and took to agriculture with a zest which has not dimmed despite the passage of years and which might put many a younger man to shame. When Bishan Mansingh talks of his farms, his deep sunken eyes sparkle with delight; when he shows them round to visitors he walks as one possessed.

EARLY YEARS

Mansingh recounted to me, as we breakfasted together, the early years of his spartan training in agriculture under his father. Mansingh was enamoured of a government career—a Deputy Superintendentship of Police or a Deputy Collectorship was his for the asking—but old Ishwar Sahai willed that his son should take up agriculture, where if he worked hard, he would be "better off than any deputy collector." The father's will was law, and Mansingh started his life as an agriculturist with no capital but a few bull calves, and some *babul* trees planted on unproductive *usar* land.

Workers engaged in a silage pit. The hay will be dug out when fodder gets scarce

Mansingh breeds cattle too. A portion of his herd

Dogged determination and hard work soon yielded results, and in a few years Mansingh had sold his *babul* trees for Rs. 5,000. After this there was no turning back. Today if he takes pride in his Bilanda and Habeeb farms, there is justification for it. *Usar* land, barren and certified as unfit for cultivation is today green with growing paddy crops; areas which were infested by kans decades ago, today bear a fruit orchard, whose guavas, mangoes and lime are among the best in the district.

Bishan Mansingh has blazed the trail for many an agriculturist. He is perhaps the first to grow paddy on land reclaimed from kans, and has shown by his example that it is possible to cultivate paddy on pebbly soil (*bajri*, *kankar* soil) or grow indigenous fodder grasses, provided the rainfall is adequate and the land remains under water for a fairly long period. Today, thanks to the pioneering effort of Bishan Mansingh, miles of once *usar* land on both sides of the Grand Trunk Road are covered with paddy fields. When the farmers of the district saw that *usar* lands could be reclaimed by methods within their means, they needed no further persuasion in reclaiming the land for paddy cultivation.

BILANDA FARM

The 340-acres Bilanda Farm owned jointly by five brothers is managed by Bishan Mansingh. It is an excellent example of intensive farming; it shows what can be achieved by persistent, untiring effort even on the most unpromising soil. The land which now grows paddy and fruit trees was about 40 years ago, mostly

barren *usar*. How has the miracle been achieved? Bishan Mansingh relates with justifiable pride that his methods can be copied even by the poorest of Indian farmers. As one walks round the farm, one is struck by the method of conserving almost every single drop of rain water. Tanks have been constructed to catch all rain water, a run off for surplus water entering the farm from higher areas has been provided, and the *usar* fields have been developed by building *bundhis* or low embankments about a foot high round well laid-out fields. In some parts, I could see, as the rain came down in blinding sheets, water of the whole village flowing into Mansingh's farm. It was being caught in artificial tanks, and would later be used to irrigate his crops. Another remarkable feature of the farm was the roads which crisscrossed it; despite the heavy rain which dogged us that whole day, I had no difficulty in moving into any corner of the farm that I wished to see.

FOREST IN FARM

A little less than one-third of the farm is under cultivation. "There is not enough water to irrigate

Land which was barren now grows paddy. In the background is the fruit orchard

more" Bishan Mansingh told me, but he was not despondent. "Forestry is a passion with me" he said with the light of challenge in his eyes, "that is why I have brought forests into my farm." The trees that he has grown are a gold mine to the family. Ten acres are under guavas, nearly 6 under mangoes and 2 grow jack fruit. He has 50 mahua trees, 200 of lemon, 300 plum trees of improved variety, 1,000 shisham trees, 2,000 neem, 4,000 *ber* trees and he has no count of his *babul* trees. He is experimenting with growing teak; I saw two trees which seemed to be coming up well.

There is enough grazing on the farm for a fairly large herd of oxen and buffaloes. They provide the motive power for agricultural operations and the manure for the fields. Bishan Mansingh is no wild enthusiast of chemical fertilisers; he uses them, but in moderation. Typical of his approach to "modern methods of agriculture" is the reply he gave to an agricultural expert who asked him if he practised scientific agriculture. Said Mansingh, "Yes, in the sense that no agriculture can be scientific which fails to count the cost of production!" Further conversation, I gather, would have been somewhat difficult between the "expert" and the farmer of Fatehpur. In years of a normal and well-distributed rainfall, he has raised up to 30 maunds of rice an acre on his fields and occasionally 50 maunds! Some of the villagers in the area, he told me, could raise only 4 maunds an acre.

HABEEB FARM

A 100-acre land called Habeeb Farm is Bishan Mansingh's exclusive property. About 30 acres are under paddy and the rest is grown with fruit trees or is forest. The methods of conserving water, and cultivation are the same which Mansingh has practised with such outstanding success on the joint-family Bilanda farm. Where rice is intended to be grown, the field is enclosed by embankments to hold all rain water; not a drop of which is allowed to escape. Next year it is protected from grazing and sown with leguminous crops. In the third year rice is grown after the land has been fertilised by large quantities of farmyard manure.

The fruit orchard in this farm yields more profit than the rest of the Habeeb Farm. I was not surprised, for I saw the rain-washed lime and guava trees bending with the burden of their thickly studded fruits. The season was still early, and as I saw the oranges, the lemons and the pummaloes, I realised that I had entered a treasure trove. And to think that once the area was unproductive *usar* land.

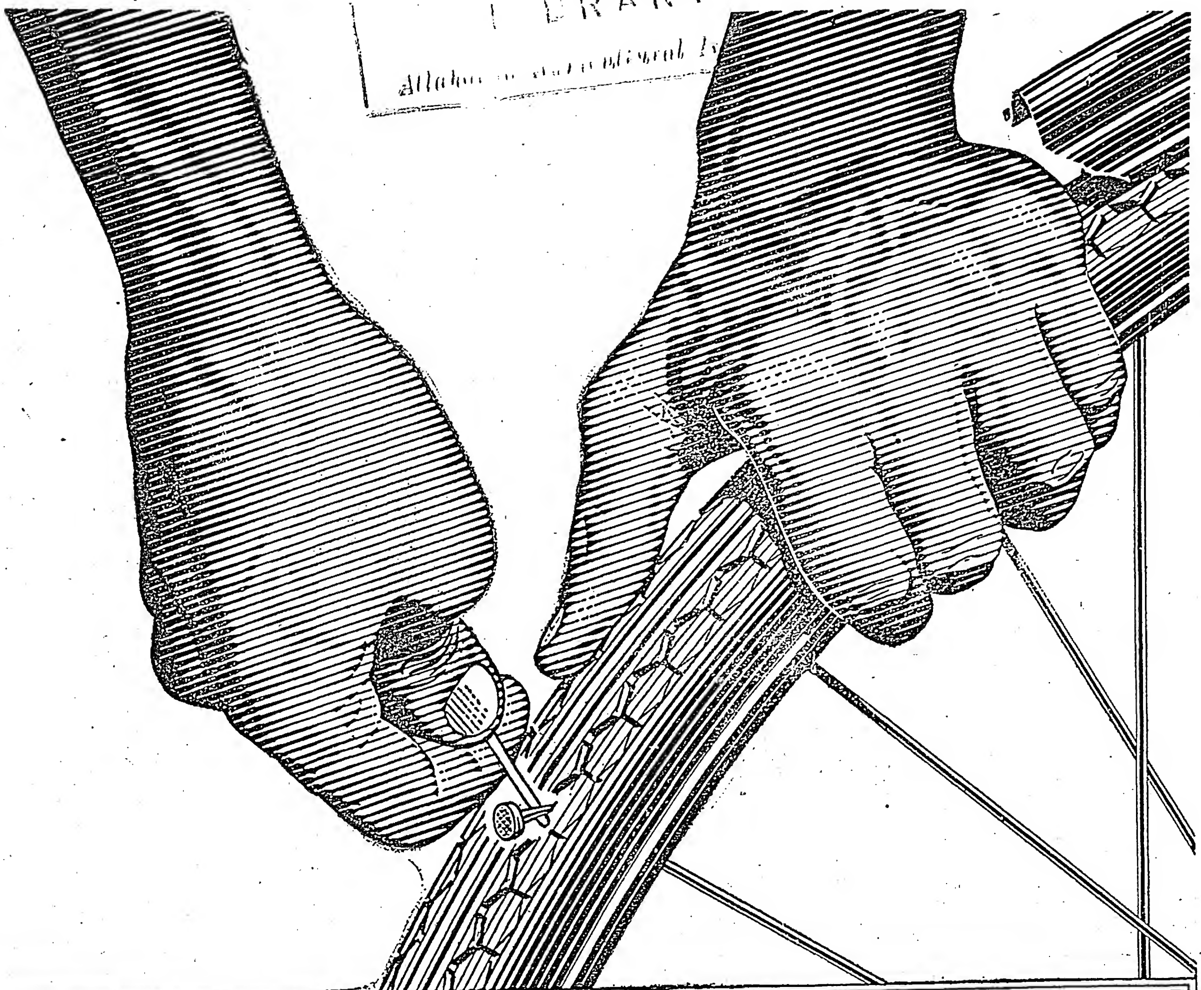
MANSINGH THE MAN

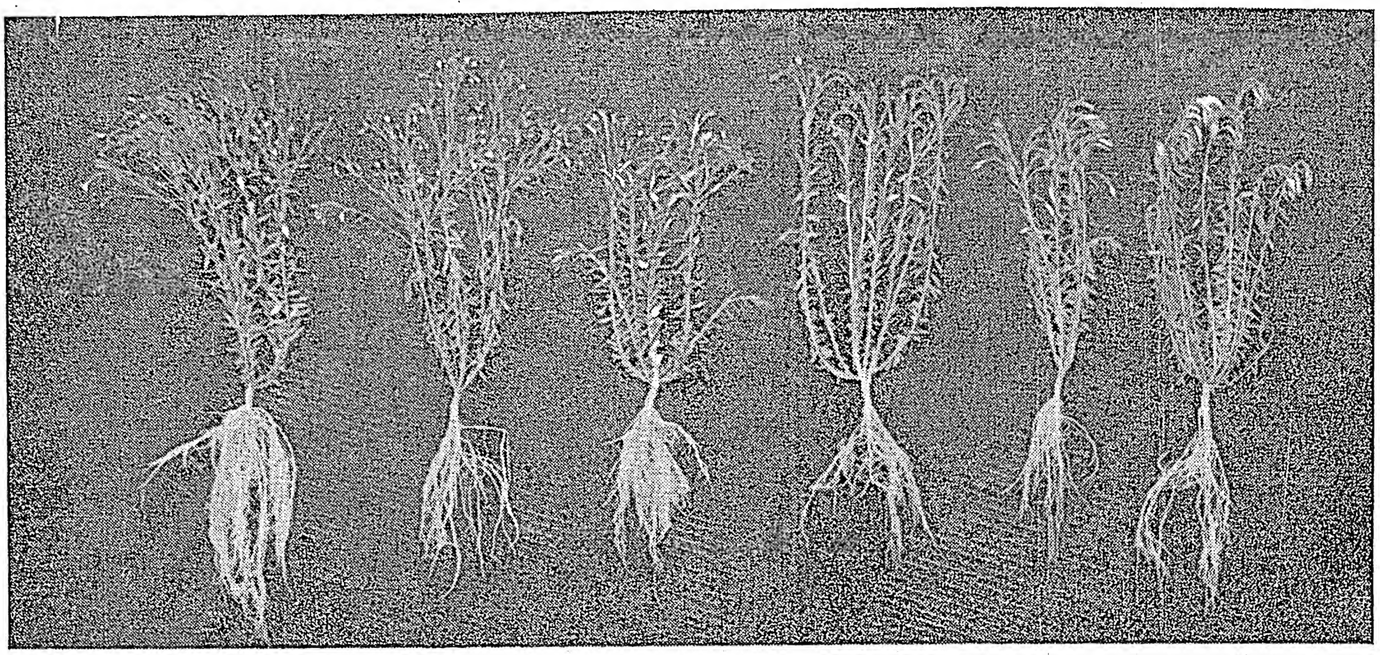
I was interested not only in Bishan Mansingh's methods but also in the man himself. To me he appeared to be an expert agriculturist with a thorough understanding of the principles of successful agriculture. These he has studied not only in the fields on which he works for hours, but also from the various reports and journals on agriculture which adorn his bookshelf. He is a voracious reader of agricultural books, and the heavy markings in red pencil found in their pages, tell their own tale. Mansingh is a great experimenter. Whenever an idea occurs to him, whether on his field or at his desk, out comes a little notebook which is his constant companion. In its pages are jotted down memoranda which are later given a "field trial." I shall relate here only one such experiment. Nearly 15 years ago he noticed one of his favourite mango tree, languishing. It hadn't fruited for two years, and all indications were that its end was near. Bishan Mansingh tried improved aeration, of which he had read somewhere. The ground below the 75 feet diameter of the tree was cleared of all vegetation, and a circular trench was dug under the outer edge of branches. This was filled up to a depth of 3 inches with the droppings of cattle. miracle happened; fruits began to appear again and a precious tree was saved.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Bishan Mansingh was a cricketer in his college days. He was perhaps the first instance of the cricket captain of a college taking his B.A. degree in the first attempt!

(*Continued on page 32*)





Rust resistant strains of linseed—R.R. 10 (1), R.R. 191 (2), R.R. 193 (3), R.R. 197 (4), R.R. 208(5) and R.R. 236 (6). The rust-resistant strains R.R. 197 and R.R. 236 have mid-season maturity, good primary branching and give high out-turn of seed

Hints to the Farmer: OILSEEDS

By **P. C. RAHEJA**

OILSEEDS are important rotation crops on all types of soils. They require less water and very little manure. Their success depends upon the cultivation given to the soil and their sequence in the rotation. The important *kharif* oilseeds are, castor, groundnut and sesamum. All these are sown with the break of monsoon and subsist to fruition on the monsoon. Castor harvested in spring continues to grow on the conserved moisture. *Rabi* oilseeds are *sarson* (*Brassica Campestris*), *rai* (*Brassica juncea*), *taramira* (*Eruca Sativa*), *toria* (*Brassica napus* var. Dichotoma) and linseed. These are normally sown at the close of monsoon and generally mature without irrigation.

SOILS

Oilseeds can be successfully cultivated on all varieties of soils. In Indo-Gangetic alluvium *rabi* oilseeds are more commonly grown while in the black and red soils of the South *kharif* oilseeds are more generally cultivated. Oilseeds usually do not flourish on acidic or very alkaline soils. They cannot stand very wet soil conditions.

PREPARATORY TILLAGE

A fine seed bed is required for all these crops. Six to eight cultivations are commonly given to prepare the fields. In cloddy fields germination of particularly small seeded oilseeds suffers and their stand is usually poor. Land is brought into very good tilth to have a firm seed bed without any weeds.

SEED RATE AND SOWING

Sarson, rai, toria, taramira, sesamum and linseed are mostly grown broadcast. Oilseeds have given good results when sown in rows.

Name of oilseed	Sowing time	Seed rate in lb./acre	Distance between rows (inches)
Sarson	Oct-Nov.	4–5 lb.	8–10″
Rai	do.	4–5 lb.	do.
Taramira	do.	4–5 lb.	do.
Toria	Sept-Oct.	4–5 lb.	do.
Sesamum	June-July Feb.-March (South India only)	2–4 lb.	12–15″
Groundnut ..	June-July	30–40 lb.	do.
Castor	do.	10–12 lb.	36–42″

The seeds of *sarson, rai, taramira, toria* and sesamum are never covered with more than 1 in. of soil. Groundnut kernels are dibbled $2\frac{1}{2}$—3 ins. deep so that seed is in contact with moist soil. Castor seeds are dibbled at 30—36 ins. apart in rows, two seeds being placed at a depth of 3—4 ins. below the surface of the soil. Sesamum crop after germination is usually thinned out to allow 15—18 ins. space between the plants for full development.

WEED AND INTERCULTIVATION

Sowing in lines facilitates these operations. Removal of weeds materially increases the yield of these crops in greater availability of soil moisture and nutrients. Small bladed *bhakhar* is usually run in between the rows to economise in labour. For working in between the castor rows five-tined horse hoe is a very suitable implement to cover the ground quickly and repeat the operation several times. Closely spaced oilseeds require 1 or 2 weedings or *bhakharing*. Castor

and groundnut crops require anything from 3 to 6 hoeings and weedings.

MANURING

When it is intended to grow castor as a cash crop about 10-15 cartloads of manure are applied to an acre particularly in the case of perennial varieties. Groundnut is another crop which is manured and about 5-6 cartloads of F.Y.M. are given. If it is not available a mixture of 1-1/3 md. of ammonium sulphate and 1-1/3 md. of superphosphate are applied as top dressing. It is better to drill the mixture 2½ ins. below the seed or dibble it in the interspace between the plants in the rows. Other oilseeds seldom receive any manure, for, they are treated as catch crops.

VARIETIES

In earlier issues of *Indian Farming*, improved types of groundnut, *sarson* & rape, linseed, sesamum & castor have been given in detail. But recently some experimental work on rust resistant strains of linseed has been in progress at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Types R. R. 197, and 236 have out-yielded the previous standard variety N. P. 21. They have also high oil content. They are practically immune to incidence of rust.

ROTATIONS

Wheat-*toria*-cotton-*senji* is the chief rotation in the Punjab. In some tracts maize replaces cotton. In most of the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar *sarson*, *rai* and *taramira* follow wheat in the next season. Usually they are mixed cropped with wheat. In southern India also they are grown mixed cropped with wheat or barley. Sesamum in northern India is sown in the rotation, wheat-maize (*senji*)—cotton+sesamum. In southern India it follows *ragi*, black gram or fodder crop. It precedes paddy on rice fields. Linseed is usually followed by maize, *jowar* or *bajra*. The commonest rotation is, linseed-*jowar*-gram. On rich land the common rotation followed is linseed-maize-wheat. In this rotation maize is manured with 5-10 tons of compost. Castor is usually sown as mixed cropped in *bajra* in separate-rows. Perennial castor is followed by groundnut and cotton.

HARVESTING AND PROCESSING FOR MARKET

In the *brassica* oilseeds the pods on the stalk get ready in 3-4 weeks after the start of the flowering when the crops are harvested. They are left in the field in sheaves for a day or two when they are carted to the threshing floor. The crop is trampled under bullocks' hoofs and separated seeds are winnowed out. Harvesting of sesamum starts when capsules have palish tinge, that is quite sometimes, before the capsules burst. The harvested crop is stocked in circular heaps upside down. The capsules dry up within a week and burst open. The plants are shaken and also beaten to complete emptying of capsules.

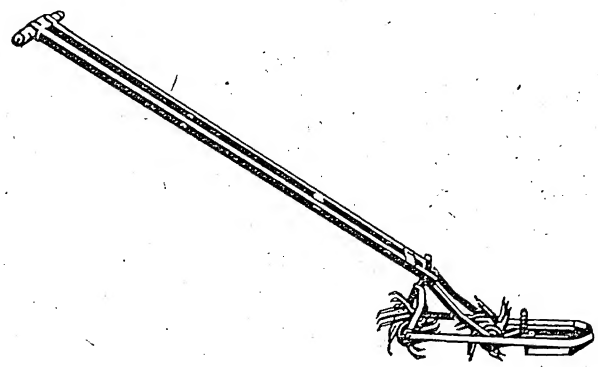
The groundnut pea pods are dug out with hooks or spades. The pods are separated by hand. In heavy black soil *sangli-kunte*, is employed to uproot peanuts which are gathered and stocked. The pods are combed out with a comb like rake. The process is facilitated after drying.

In castor all capsules do not ripen at one time. Capsules are, therefore, picked at short intervals. The pods remain in stock until their skin blackens. The seeds are beaten out with sticks.

RICE LAND WEEDERS FROM JAPAN

R. V. RAMIAH

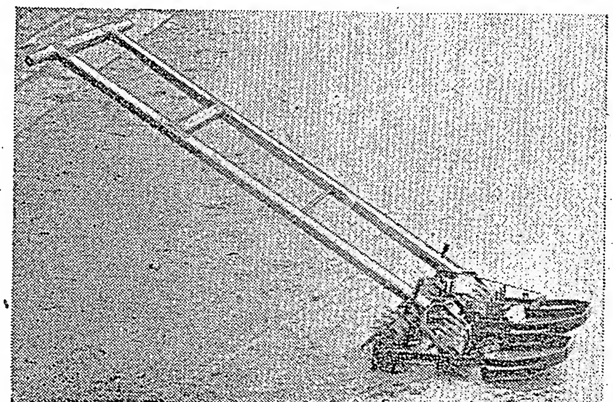
Head of the Division of Agricultural Engineering, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.



Japanese single row rice land weeder

One single row and 4 double row manually operated rice land weeders were received from Japan for experimental purposes.

The two row weeder was tried at Pusa, Bihar, in the rice fields which had been transplanted earlier with 12 ins. apart between rows. The weeder is designed to work for row widths of 9 ins. and above. The weeder worked successfully in fields with standing water of 1 in. to 2 ins. depth and it removed all the weeds without injuring the rice plant. In rice land where the moisture content was less than 20%, its operation was not good. The machine worked in a field of 1/25 acre in area. It takes 5 hours to weed one acre of rice land where the plants are in rows. Continuous operation for more than an hour by a man is possible. The work with this machine is less strenuous than by present Khurpi and its output is also more. Planting rice in rows, is however, a prerequisite for the use of these machines. The machines may be used in jute fields also if the seeds are sown in rows.



Japanese two row rice land weeder

Dr. Kalamkar, Director of Agriculture, Government of Madhya Pradesh, explained the quality of the soil, during the course of inspection of the farm

SINDEWAHI IS ON THE MAP AGAIN

SINDEWAHI in Chanda district of Madhya Pradesh is known to the readers of *Indian Farming*. We featured Nama Patil, a local farmer as its Man of the Month in November, 1951. On the 16th June, 1952 Sindewahi appeared on the map again marking a beginning of a new stage in the rural reconstruction programme in Madhya Pradesh. The first training centre under the Community Projects scheme was brought into being there.

Shri S. N. Mehta, Development Commissioner of Madhya Pradesh launched this centre in the presence of the first batch of trainees from the different States and agriculturists from the surrounding villages who were present in large numbers along with the Pt. 4 experts in the area.

This training-cum-development project is divided into two parts: 1 training centre and 2 development project.

TRAINING CENTRE

At the training centre advanced training is to be given to persons who have already completed technical, agricultural or public health training so that they may be oriented away from the desk to the field with a practical understanding of the techniques of "Demonstration" by doing. The practical aspects of agriculture, animal husbandry, public health, sanitary, veterinary and adult education will be particularly dealt with. The object behind the training is to start Agricultural Extension Projects with the help of personnel trained at this place.

The training centre has so far admitted 40 students including 20 from the States. These include 20 from Madhya Pradesh, 3 from Madhya Bharat, 5 from Bombay, 4 from Vindhya Pradesh, 8 from Bhopal. The period of training is extended to six months. Mr. Creech, an American expert, is to act as Adviser on the teaching side and Mr. Bell as Adviser on the development side.

SINDEWAHI DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

This block consists of 105 villages and has an area of about 150 square miles. A preliminary survey of the villages has been carried out. The survey was undertaken to ascertain (1) the problems of these villages (2) the possibilities of various land development and other schemes being introduced into these areas and (3) possibilities of taking up small irrigation works, etc.

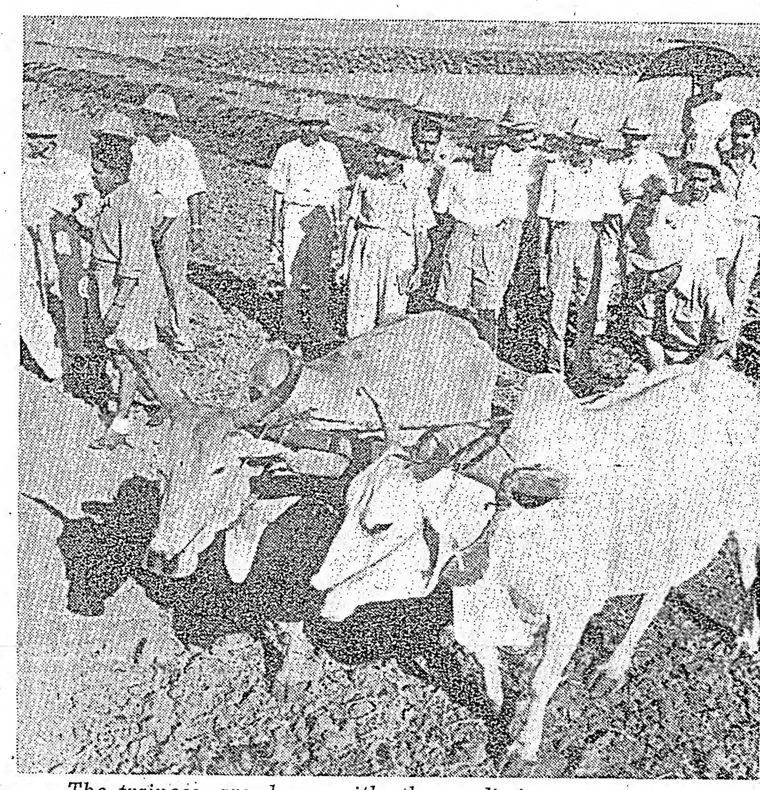
Practically the whole of the staff required for the training and development programme for the centre has been posted to their places. The Public Works Depart-

Mr. Bell Point-4-Adviser on Development side, watching the field operations conducted by the trainees

ment has already taken up repairs and alterations to the buildings.

The students are divided into five groups of 8 each for all village units and practical demonstrations. The all round development scheme of a 105 village block around Sindewahi will give these student trainees a lot to do. The farmer in India requires to be convinced of any new ideas before he goes whole-heartedly for it. Although considered to be conservative, the farmer is essentially progressive. His progress being dependent upon the type of guidance he receives and its appeal to his shrewdness. The Community Projects are meant to meet this demand and the confidence created by it will leave the onus on the farmer of availing himself of all possible help from the village level worker.

The Madhya Pradesh Government has taken a number of measures for the development of the State and towards raising the standard of living. Among these are the Khaparkheda power house, the agricultural college, and the engineering college. However, the need to coordinate the services rendered by such measures was felt by the authorities and the conclusion was reached that the village and the agriculturists in the village should be targets of all development schemes. Thus it was that the Community Project scheme launched through the Planning Commission has come to the rescue and Sindewahi marks the beginning of the onward march of Madhya Pradesh towards its cherished goal. In the words of Mr. Kelly, Agricultural Extension Supervisor of Government of India, "The whole programme is of work, of action, of putting technical knowledge together and getting the results, and if we did it there, you can do it here."



The trainees are busy with the preliminary operations in the field

LEGUMES AND THE SOIL

By **C. N. ACHARYA,**
Indian Agricultural Research Institute
New Delhi

Wheat after berseem manured with phosphate

THE use of legume crops as green manures, e.g. sann-hemp, *dhaincha*, *guar* and pillipesera, or as crops in the rotation, e.g. pulses, cowpeas, groundnut, soyabean, etc. is an old agricultural practice that has been prevalent in China and elsewhere for several thousands of years. It has been generally recognized that both as green manures and as crops in the rotation, they help to improve the soil and to maintain crop yields at a high level. Science has made considerable progress in explaining the reasons for the above beneficial effects of growing legumes, but there are still several gaps in our knowledge of the subject.

It was Hellriegel and Wilfarth (1886) who showed that legume crops carry in their root concretions, called nodules, billions of bacteria, which possessed the property of fixing nitrogen from the air. Beijerinck (1888) actually isolated the bacterium and called it *Bacillus radicicola*. Further work showed that there were different strains of the bacteria, which showed specific affinity for certain plants only and refused to grow on the roots of other plants. Thus there are strains which would infect only :—(*a*) lucerne and sweet clover; (*b*) pea and vetch; (*c*) soyabean; (*d*) lupin and serradella; (*e*) phaseolus; and (*f*) others like cowpeas, groundnut, lespedeza, etc.

The activity of the bacteria in fixing nitrogen from the air depends on a number of factors including the nature of the host plant and soil conditions like the presence of lime, phosphorus and trace elements such as boron and molybdenum. Under favourable soil conditions, the nature of the host plant markedly determines the quantity of nitrogen fixed from the air; and the quantity so fixed may vary from 50 to 200 lb. nitrogen per acre.

Wheat directly manured with phosphate

The experimental data relating to green manure crops have been well summarized in a bulletin on the subject recently published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.* The quantity of nitrogen fixed by ordinary green manure crops like sann-hemp, *dhaincha* and *guar* may average about 50 to 100 lb. per acre and to this extent the succeeding crop is benefited when the green manure crop is ploughed into the soil. For obtaining the full benefit of green manuring, it is necessary that :—(*a*) the green manure crop should be still succulent, i.e. it should not have become fibrous; (*b*) a period of 6 to 8 weeks should elapse between the ploughing in of the green matter and sowing of the next crop, in order to allow time for proper decomposition and nitrification of the green manure; and (*c*) there should be adequate moisture supply in the soil either by rainfall or by irrigation, in order to provide for the moisture requirements of the decomposing green manure, as well as of the next crop grown.

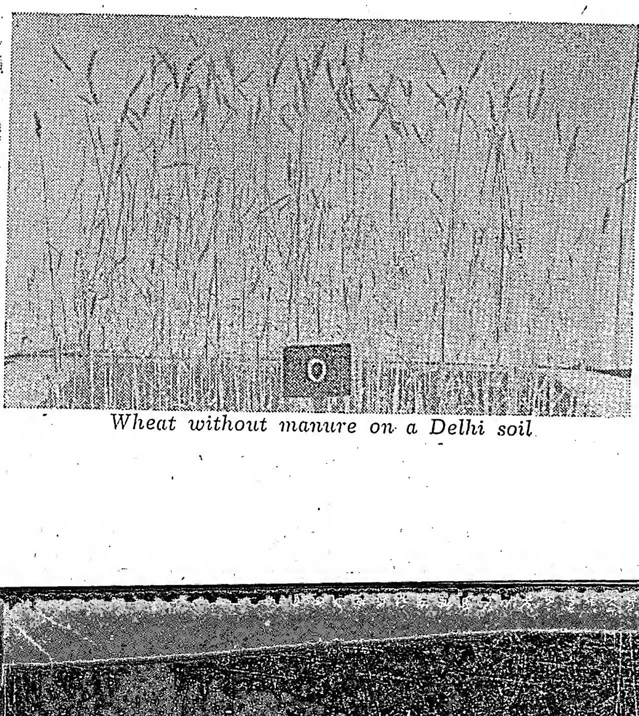
In the case of legume crops grown in the rotation for their agricultural produce, e.g. pulses, cowpeas, groundnut or soyabeans, the degree of beneficial effect on the succeeding crop depends again on the nature of the soil and the legume grown. Thus, it is known that a heavy yielding crop of groundnut or soyabeans may actually remove in the produce more nitrogen than what has been fixed from the air, and to this extent the soil may get impoverished in nitrogen, instead of being benefited. Pulses and cowpeas do not, in general, impoverish the soil to a similar extent, but may leave it in a condition of *status quo*.

Work carried out at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, has shown that there are certain legume crops such as berseem, which possess intensive growth powers and help their nodule bacteria to fix large quantities of nitrogen from the air, which are sufficient not only to meet the growth requirements of the crop, but also to leave an excess in the soil, which helps to improve the fertility level of the soil from year

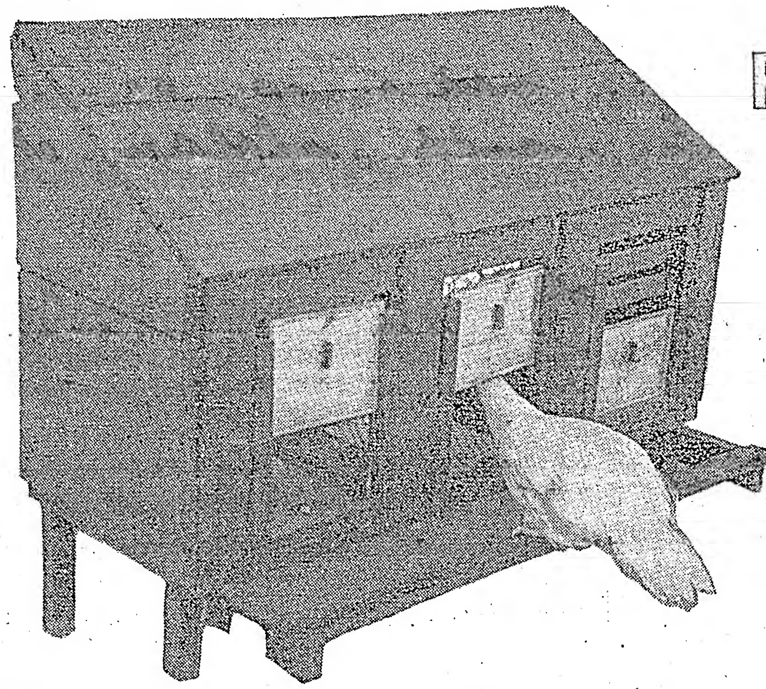
*Review on "Green Manuring Practices in India" by B. K. Mukherji and R. R. Agarwal—Misc. Bull. No. 68 of the I. C. A. R., Manager of Govt. Publications, Delhi (1950).

Wheat after a berseem—cowpea rotation

to year. Much has been made of alfalfa as a wonder working legume in the U.S.A., but a similar role could be played in north Indian soils by berseem (*Trifolium alexandrium*). This is a *rabi* fodder crop, belonging to the clover family, which won fame in Egypt and was introduced into this country in the beginning of this century and is now being grown in several parts of the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The crop responds markedly to applications of superphosphate and finely ground bone-meal or rock phosphate, and also to small applications of trace elements like boron and molybdenum. The monthly cuttings provide excellent fodder, containing about 3 to 3.5 per cent nitrogen in the dry matter, and the quantity obtained in 4 or 5 cuttings between November and May provides about 700 to 1000 maunds of green fodder per acre. In addition, it is found that soils of average fertility are benefited considerably and the next crop of wheat may show 30 to 50 per cent increase. Wheat, directly manured with phosphate, does not show such good response as when the phosphate is applied to berseem and the wheat is grown thereafter. In certain plots at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, where berseem treated with superphosphate has been grown in rotation with cowpeas and wheat, without nitrogenous manuring, the nitrogen and organic matter content of the surface soil had increased by nearly 50 per cent in the course of about 10 years; and the fertility of the soil had improved correspondingly.



Wheat without manure on a Delhi soil



POULTRY BREEDING
SELECTION OF BREEDERS

By **S. G. IYER,**
Indian Veterinary Research Institute
Izatnagar

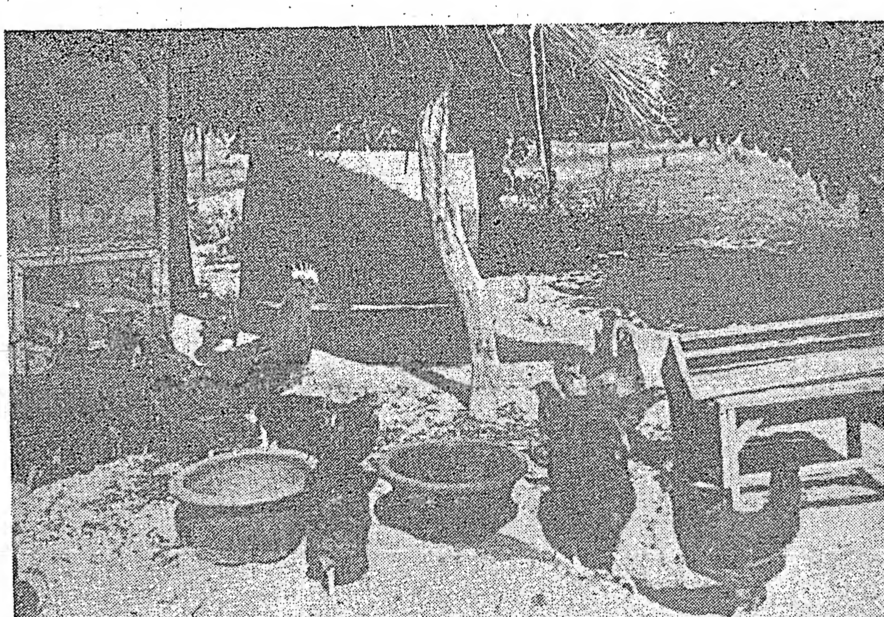
THE total poultry population in India is 69,000,000. It is estimated that 50 per cent of the birds are lost year after year due to disease, accidents, attacks from animals and various other causes, affecting adversely the development of the infant poultry industry. The useful span of life of the fowl is but short and production of replacement stocks in millions every year, is therefore, the responsibility of the poultry breeders.

One of the essential factors in the successful running of a poultry farm is the selection of sound breeding stock. In the absence of good breeding stock, it is impossible to get really good results, for good housing, feeding and management by themselves cannot turn third rate birds into good egg layers. As like tends to beget like, it is essential to select the best birds for the breeding pens. Though it is undoubtedly true that the expert breeders of livestock are born and not made, it is also true that the average person can get satisfactory results by paying strict attention to the fundamental principles involved.

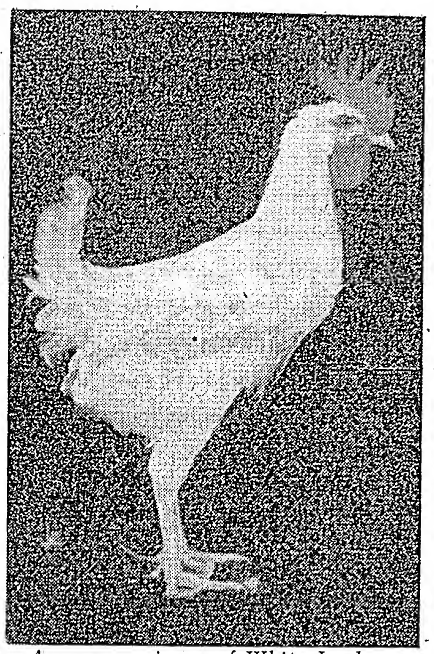
In the first instance, it is necessary to use birds of mature age, for young undeveloped birds will not give as good results as mature birds. Some breeders are averse to the use of pullets (female chickens-age 1 year) in the breeding pens but in many cases breeding from pullets is quite justified. The chief danger in using pullets is that they have not demonstrated their ability to live long which is an inherited characteristic, so that breeding from such birds may result in the introduction of certain factors which may lower the stamina of the stock. If the pullets are well developed, or are at least 10 months old and have been bred from hens of proven stamina, there should be little danger in breeding from them. The fertility of and hatchability from mature pullets is certainly as good as that from hens and in Western countries many laying test winners have been bred from pullets of known parentage. Hens after their second laying year are usually uncertain breeders than younger birds but really first class older birds are supreme as foundation stock. Though they may produce fewer eggs than young birds, it is advisable to keep them as long as they live and lay. Cockerels (male chickens under one year old), on account of their superior vigour, usually prove more dependable breeders than older birds but it is necessary to keep the very best more than one season. The use of immature males is not recommended as this will always result in bad breeding results.

SIZE OF BODY

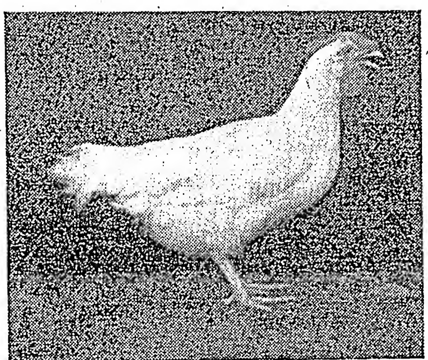
Good body size is essential in breeding stock for selection on egg production performances alone will almost invariably result in a loss of body size and a lowering of vigour. Further, as large birds on the average produce bigger eggs than small birds, body size must be maintained in order to maintain good egg size. The accepted world market standard for the size of eggs is 24 oz. per



A pen of improved Indian fowls



A poor specimen of White Leghorn Cockerel



A good White Leghorn Pullet lays

dozen eggs. A White Leghorn pullet, for instance, must weigh $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. at the time of maturity to lay eggs each weighing two ounces when the bird is about 8 months old. Coarseness both in the males and females should normally be avoided in egg producing strains, for coarseness is usually an indication of broodiness, low fecundity and poor stamina. In table producing breeds, a certain amount of coarseness is permissible as egg production in such breeds must come second to meat qualities.

BREED STANDARDS

Though many of the breed standards seem to have no linkage or correlation with high egg production the breeder should as far as possible breed from birds which conform to the breed standards. This is especially true in the case of body size, for the best producers and breeders are those which are approximately the same weight as that laid down for the breed. The breeder should try to breed true to the breed standards, otherwise he will soon have a non-descript flock which will not be attractive.

TEMPERAMENT

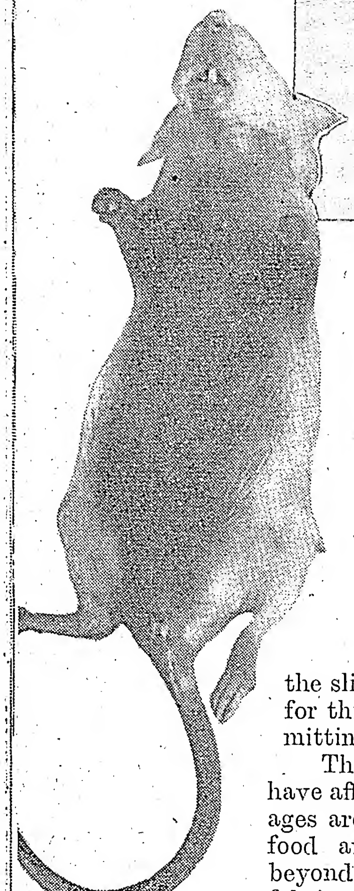
A nervous active temperament is associated with good physique and stamina. A good producer has invariably an alert disposition and is a good forager. Sluggish birds, which are slow to come off the perches in the morning and hide in corners and feeding troughs throughout most of the day, are nearly always poor breeders. In the male, a certain amount of aggressiveness and keenness to fight other males and boss over the females are signs of good stamina. A good temperament is also denoted by a well balanced head and well placed rather bold eyes. The finer points in regard to temperament cannot be mastered from books and a sound knowledge can only be acquired by long and careful study of the birds themselves.

The best breeding results can only be secured by means of the trapnest but the records so obtained should be used with discretion, for birds should not be selected for the breeding pen solely on their trapnest record. However, the trapnest performance in conjunction with selection for body conformation and size is invaluable in building up a good breeding stock. Most breeders tend to place too much reliance on the trapnest record of the individual, whereas much more reliable information can be obtained from the performance of the individual's sisters; an individual bird with a good record from a family with poor records is usually a breeder inferior to one with only a medium record from a family with a good average egg record. The beginner can get invaluable assistance from trapnested stock, for if he is interested in fowls he will soon be able to pick out the characteristics which denote good egg production and stamina. For those who have neither the time nor the facilities for trapnesting, it is useful to remember that the best producers start to lay at a fairly early age, early sexual maturity being correlated with high egg production. Further, good egg producers are persistent layers whereas poor producers stop production early and take a long time to

(*Continued on page 31*)

TOMORIN

A New Raticide



FROM the hoary days when man led a primitive, (and according to some, a far happier) life—rodents, mainly rats and mice, have been his constant scourge. Whatever he grew in his ill demarcated fields, whatever he stored from the meagre fruits of his efforts, he shared with the rodents, whether he liked it or not.

Apart from this heavy economic loss, the next impact of rodents on man was to bring to him a deadly disease—plague—of which he knew nothing, and whose cure he had not the slightest means of effecting. He paid for this attention by the rodents by submitting to hapless death.

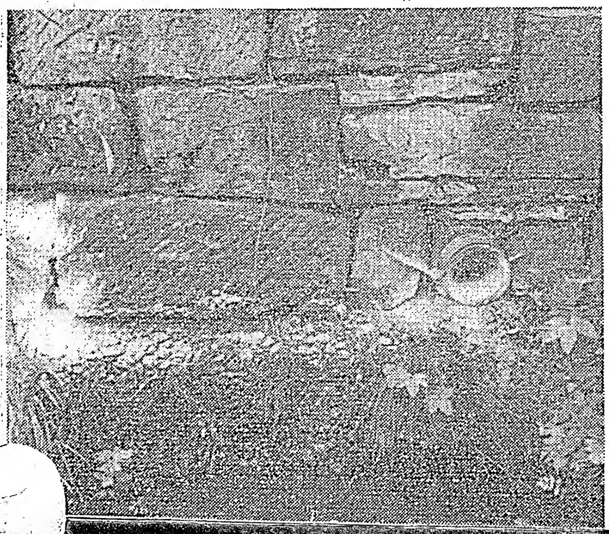
The twin ways by which rats and mice have affected man and his welfare down the ages are still persisting. Millions of tons of food are being eaten away, or damaged beyond human consumption. Damage to fabrics and other finished goods is incalculable. The prevalence of plague is an annual feature in many States, thanks to the association between the rat-flea and the rat. So, in spite of man's ingenuity and resourcefulness, he has not been able, so far, to free himself from the destructive attention of rats and mice.

Rat control is as old as the hills, and the thought and energy bestowed by man on this vital problem is immense. From early days, traps have been devised with a hundred variations, but to the credit of the rats, it must be said that they systematically defied each one of them. The technique of the professional rat catchers has been developed to a fine art, and yet the rat population has gone up by leaps and bounds. Poison-baits have been studied and employed against rats since the time man discovered these poisons. But all to no avail. The prolific rate at which rats and mice breed, and an extraordinary sense of impending prediliction which God has endowed them with, have enabled the resourceful rodents to escape complete extinction, and continue their nefarious activities.

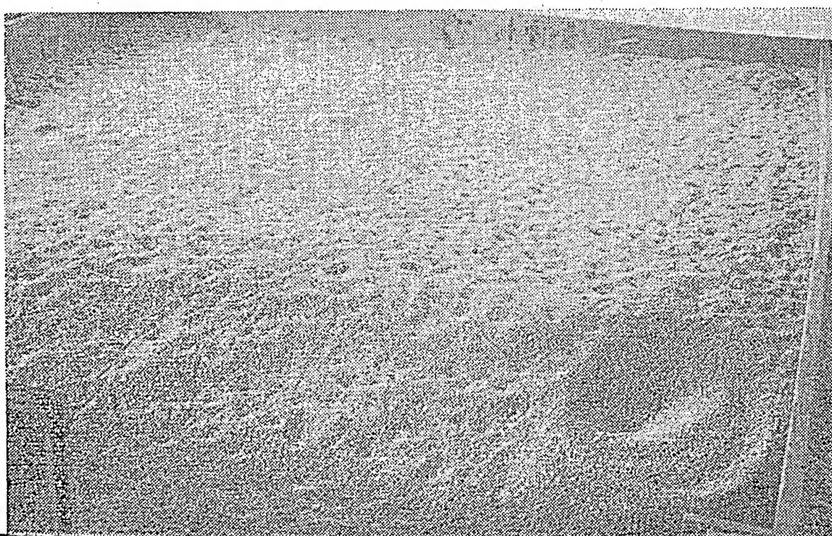
Since the last World War, two other chemical discoveries, the latest one being based upon a Coumarin derivative, sprang into the limelight, each claimed by its discoverers to be the best rodenticide so far. The rodents, however, ignored these claims, and rapidly showed that even these discoveries had certain shortcomings. Whilst admittedly having their own limited uses, they failed to provide the final answer for which man was searching, and they were consequently added to the already long list of poisons which were merely " of use."

More recently however, research work has been carried on with Coumarin derivatives, from an entirely different angle, arguing that, since rats and mice had the habit of licking their fur and paws, a tracking dust should be able to reach their stomach and poison them, if once they scurry over a treated area. The result of

Typical exit holes, treated with Tomorin



Tracks left by rodents in grain



these researches was a remarkable new Raticide—TOMORIN—which is also based on a Coumarin derivative, with the difference however, that whereas the earlier Coumarin raticide was used in the form of baits, Tomorin was purely a dusting powder intended to be applied in such places that rats were sure to frequent.

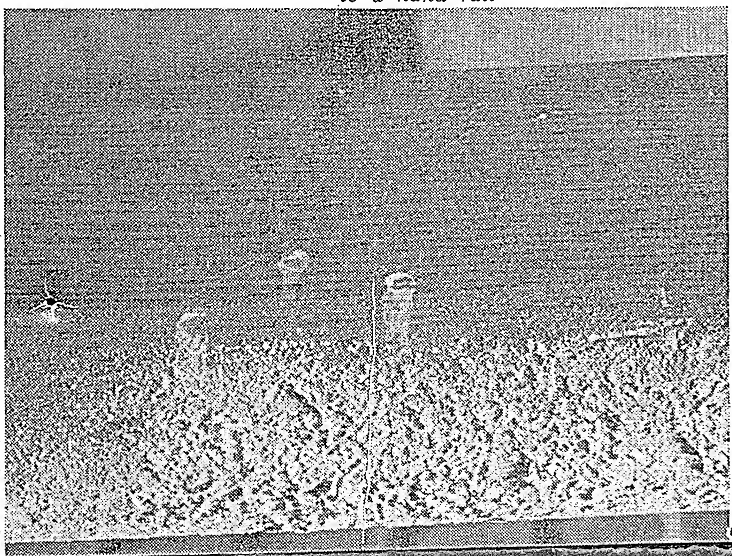
Experiments under Indian conditions already prove that Tomorin is effective against not only all the species of rats and mice one encounters in this country, but also bandicotts and shrews. The greatest advantage, however, is that Tomorin does not present any toxic hazard to domestic animals and human beings in its application against rodents, and when used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

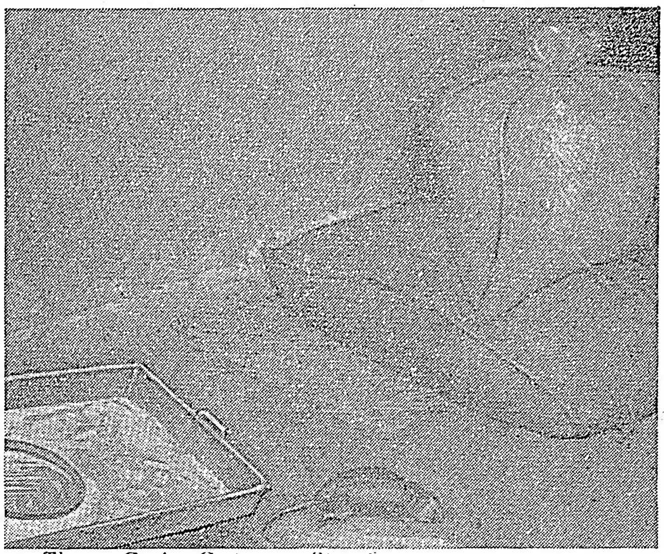
The experiments in India were carried out in large public buildings, a hotel, a bank, several grain storage godowns, a food factory, and in an open compound. The results in all cases were, to say the least of it, spectacular. For the first time in living memory, a hotel was freed from rodents completely and remained free up to the date of this report, seven weeks later. grain godowns proved particularly easy to treat, and in spite of the very large number of rodents killed within the godowns, there was not a single case of corpse smell caused by rat dying in out of the way places. This is particularly important in grain godowns, where a single dead rat, putrifying within a stack of grain bags, could render many bags useless by tainting them. This in fact, is a remarkable feature of Tomorin, that the rodents appear to come out into the open to die, rather, than recede into their nests, as usually happened with other poisons.

The advent of Tomorin has undoubtedly opened up very extensive possibilities in an important field of pest control, since by its widespread use, not only vital stocks of foodstuffs can be saved, but also health and hygiene in our plague ridden villages can be satisfactorily maintained.

Thus has been introduced a product that provides the complete answer to the age old search for a raticide that combines the virtues of supreme efficiency and great simplicity of application, with a welcome economy.

Paw marks in a layer of Tomorin powder applied to a hand rail





Thana Grain Godown. Showing tray a water bait method of Tomorin application. Results successful, but godown required extensive repairs to prevent fresh infestation from savage system immediately outside main door

Extensive haemorrhages in the internal organs are a sure sign of Tomorin poisoning

Cacao tree in bearing

CACAO OR THE CHOCOLATE TREE

By **V. S. RANGACHARLU,**
Assistant Fruit Specialist, Coimbatore

CACAO constitutes one of the three pricipal beverages of the world the other two being coffee and tea.

CACAO IS NUTRITIVE TOO

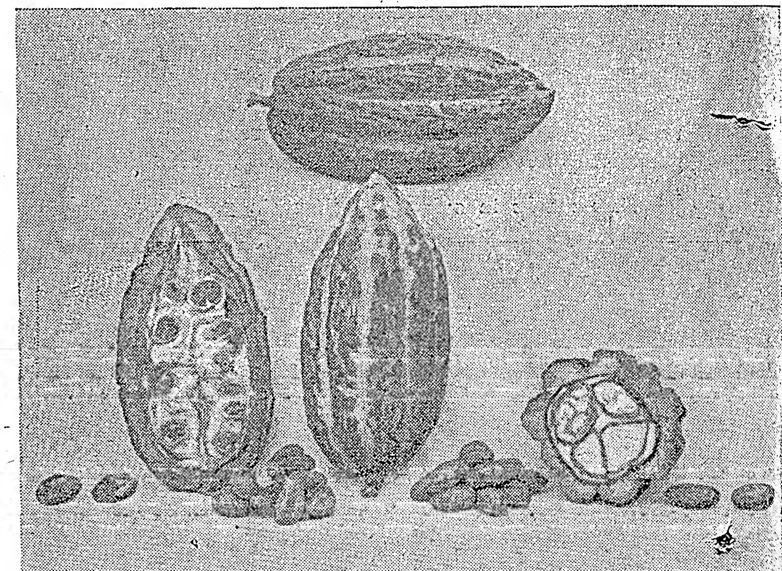
But cacao is not merely a beverage, it is also nutritious. The consumption of cacao and its products the world over has increased enormously during the recent years. The present world consumption is estimated at more than 500,000 tons of which India's share is reported to be in the neighbourhood of about 300 tons on an average every year. Our imports of cacao and its products during the past 10 years or so have been roughly valued at about Rs. 70,00,000.

WORLD SHORTAGE—AN OPPORTUNITY

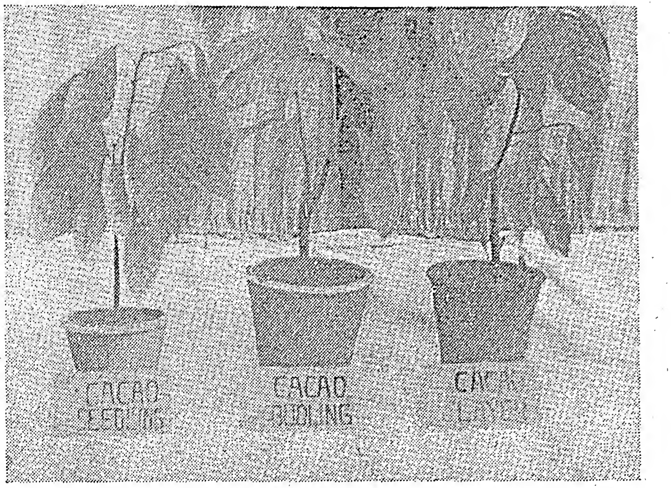
Unfortunately, the world's production today has failed to keep pace with the growing demand. This is largely due to the fact that millions of trees in some of the foremost cacao producing countries of the world like the Gold Coast, are fast being wiped out as a result of a virulent virus disease known as "swollen shoot," all attempts at controlling it having failed. The world shortage in production at present is estimated at more than 63,000 tons per annum with the prospect of a further decline in acreage unless immediate steps are taken to tap new sources of production; for, according to the world's cacao authorities, little recovery is expected in the countries subject to the aforementioned epidemic. Already, it is understood, attempts are being made by British and other commercial interests to exploit new fields of production, particularly in Malaya, Indonesia and in Ceylon to mention a few nearer to ours.

A BLUE MOUNTAIN EXPERIMENT SUCCEEDS

The small experimental plantations established over 30 years ago at Kallar and Burliar in the humid hill regions of the Nilgiris in South India have shown that this crop can not only be grown successfully under



Cocao pods and seeds. The fermented seeds lying loose



Nursery plants in pots

suitable environment but can also yield high quality beans of the very superior Criollo variety.

Further, the world's production at present consists mostly of the coarser Forastero variety, the finer Criollo having almost disappeared from the markets. This is mainly due to the promiscuous mixing of the varieties in most of the cacao producing regions. The former, though hardy and prolific, yields only an inferior product when compared with the latter which on account of its superior quality fetches a price approximately 30 per cent higher than the other coarse types. As such, any country which can market the Criollo exclusively could easily gain a leading position in the international markets for cacao at present.

Fortunately for us, the only variety that happened to be introduced into South India was Criollo which has thus remained in a pure form. Recent studies of its performance at Kallar and Burliar have shown that its yields are in no way inferior to those of even Forastero elsewhere. Happily enough, the locally grown trees have remained remarkably free from any of the major diseases or pests found in other cacao growing countries.

A unique opportunity thus presents itself in India particularly for internal consumption as well as export in the southern and south-western States for building up a flourishing cacao industry.

According to well known authorities on cacao, the following four essentials are necessary for successful cacao production :

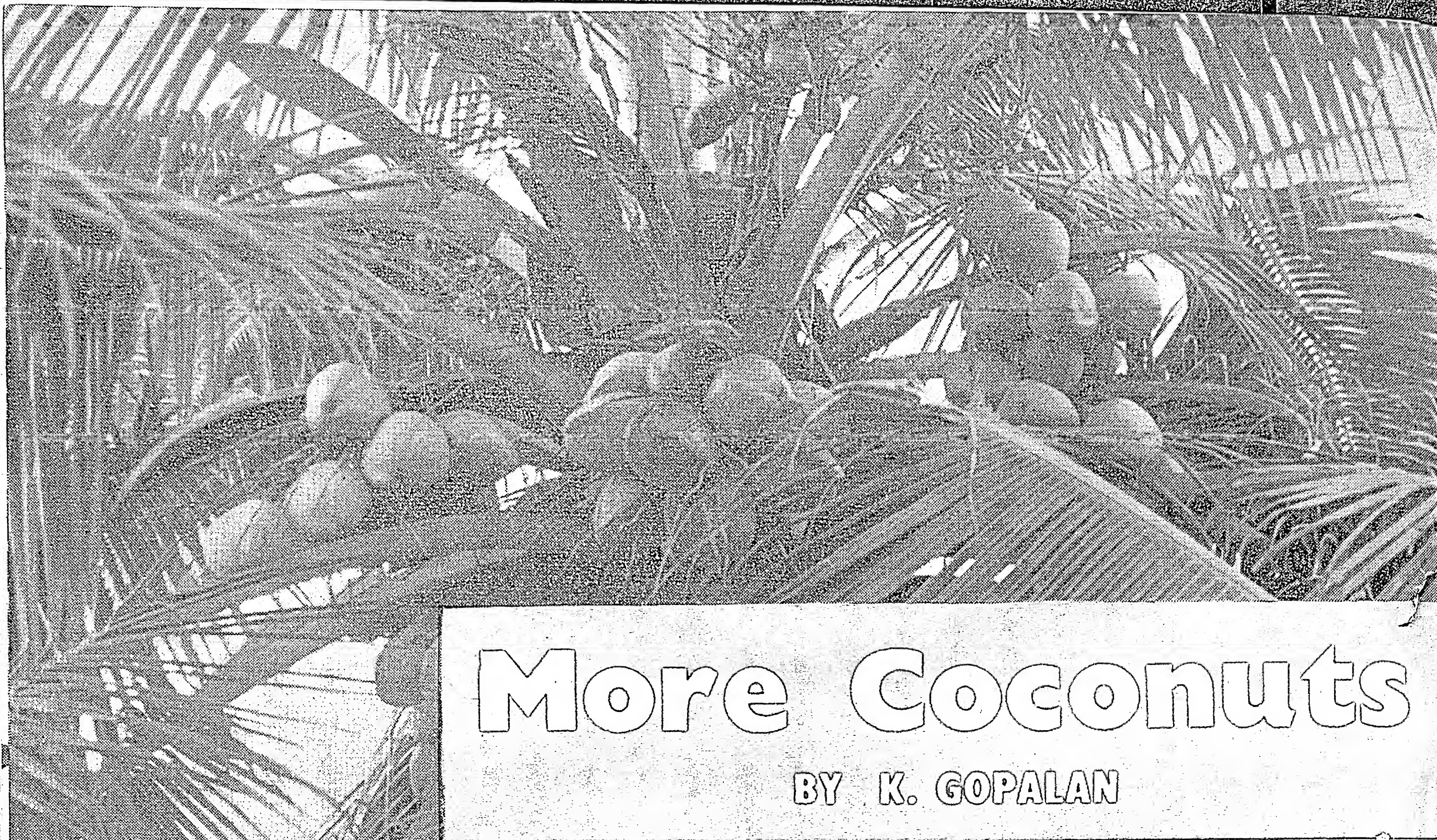
(*a*) A temperature of not less than 60° F.

(*b*) A well distributed rainfall of over 60 inches

(*c*) A well drained soil rich in organic matter and other nutrients

(*d*) A well sheltered aspect and situation

None can dispute the fact that India with her diverse climatic and soil features satisfies all these points in a fairly abundant measure. There is enough evidence on hand to show that cacao growing can be successful under our conditions and it can be cultivated as one of our plantation crops.



More Coconuts

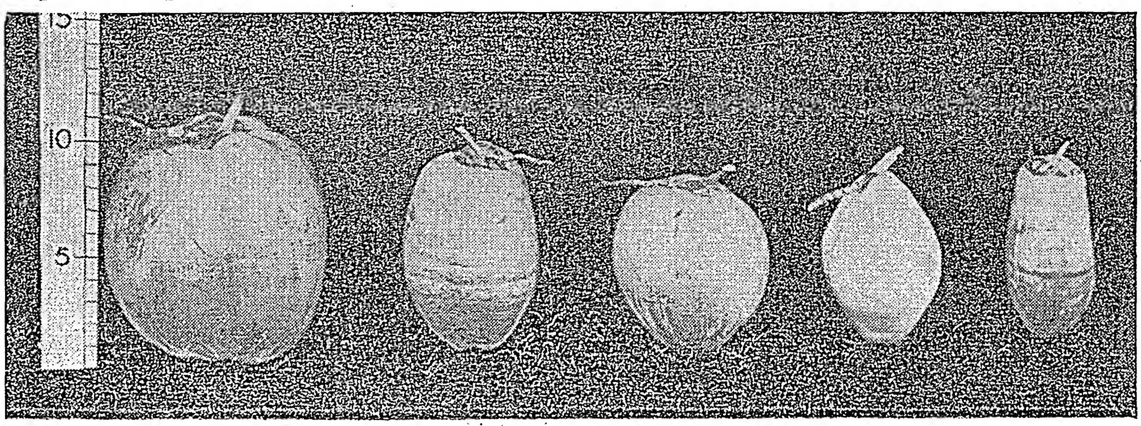
BY K. GOPALAN

ALTHOUGH India with its 1.532 million acres under coconut has the second largest coconut area in the world, she produces only 3432.9 million nuts which are hardly sufficient to meet the country's requirements of the commodity. The country is in short supply to the extent of about 25 to 30 per cent of her requirements. This short-fall is made up in some measure by imports, but that certainly is not the best method of solving the problem of under-production. The problem, therefore, is the stepping up of our production of coconut with a view to attaining self-sufficiency and if possible to create a surplus for export.

GROW MORE COCONUTS

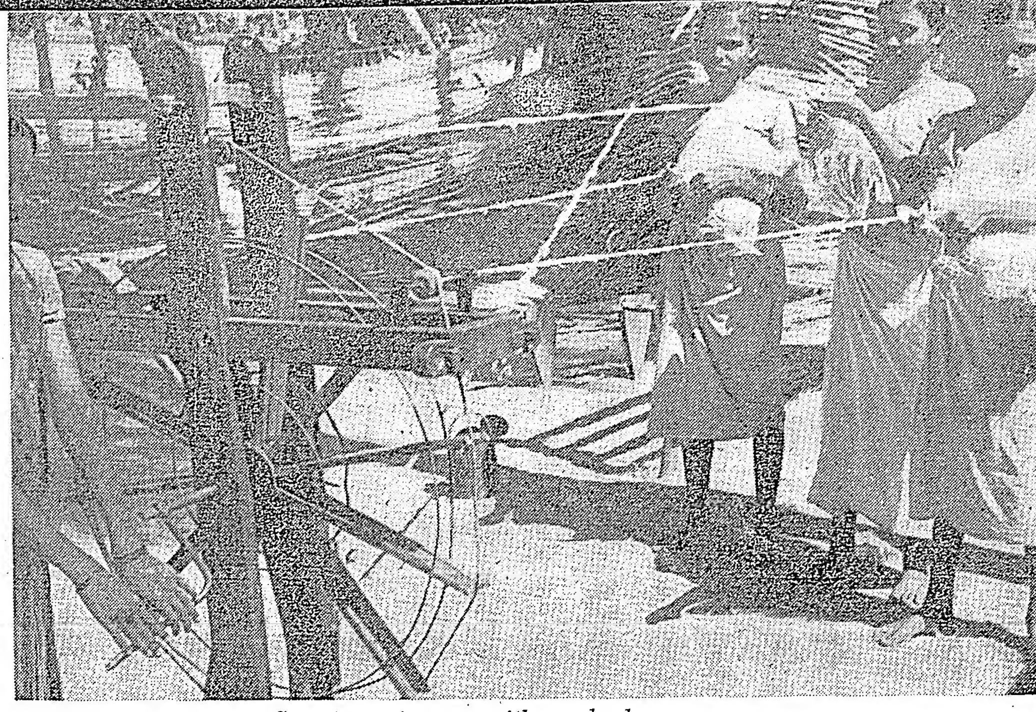
With a view to growing two coconuts where one grew a number of measures have been undertaken both from the short and long term points of view. From the long term point of view our production can be stepped up by bringing more land under coconut. The major coconut producing areas are fully planted up and there is not much additional land available for cultivation. It may, however, be possible to extend the cultivation to a small extent by cultivating coconut on virgin land at the foot of Western Ghats, on the embankments of irrigation canals, on the margins of roads, on either sides of railways, on the borders of rice fields and the banks of rivers and the State governments have been requested to render necessary assistance in this regard. The States of West Bengal and Assam and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands also afford scope for extension of cultivation.

From the short term point of view, investigations have shown that by regular manuring and intercultivation the yield could be raised by about 50 per cent. Popularising the use of manure for coconut on a more adequate scale is, therefore, necessary. Arrangements have been made to distribute manures on a long term credit basis.



Most of the coconut plantations are small holdings belonging to small cultivators who have practically been neglecting them following the economic depression of the thirties. They are being told how to make their plantations yield more.

There are two Central Coconut Research Stations one at Kasaragod in South Kanara, for handling fundamental research and the other at Kayangulam in Travancore-Cochin for investigating the pests and diseases of the palm. Regional Coconut Research Stations have been set up in Travancore-Cochin and Orissa and a few more are about to be set up in Madras and Bombay States, in cooperation with the governments concerned for tackling cultural and manurial problems of a local character.



Spinning coir yarn with a wheel

QUALITY OF PLANTING MATERIALS

In the case of a perennial tree like the coconut which starts bearing only eight to ten years after germination of the seednut and continues to yield for about 60 years, it is of the utmost importance that the cultivator should make sure of the quality of his planting material before he starts a new garden or underplants in an old one. Before the advent of the Indian Central Coconut Committee there was practically no reliable arrangement for the distribution of seedlings of guaranteed quality. Shortly after it was set up the Committee started financing schemes put forward by State Governments for raising and distributing them at a concession price of eight annas each ex-nursery. It is now financing 28 coconut nurseries in seven States with an annual production target of 478,440 seedlings besides running a nursery of its own at its Central Coconut Research Station, at Kasaragod with an annual target of 10,000 seedlings.

SETTING UP MARKETS

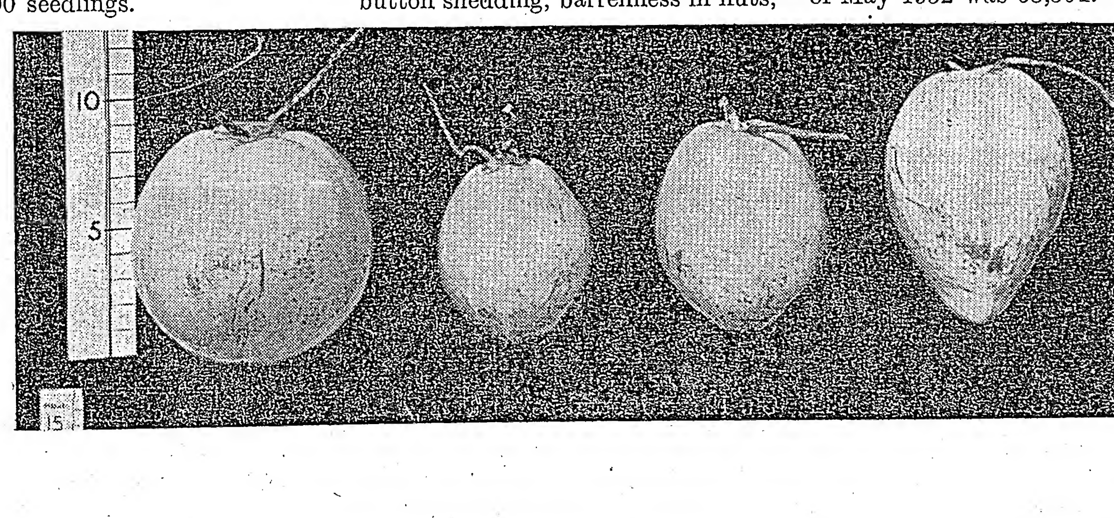
The grade specifications for coconut oil and standard contract terms for milling copra have been drawn up. On the recommendation of the Committee to set up regulated markets for coconuts and coconut products the Madras Government has established such markets in the Malabar, S. Kanara and East Godavari districts while the Travancore-Cochin Government propose to take similar steps. To ensure the manufacture of quality copra round the year irrespective of weather conditions, copra drying is being encouraged with the aid of hot air kilns such as are in vogue in Ceylon. One such kiln is under construction in Badagara by the Malabar District Produce Cooperative Sale Society with a Rs. 12,900 loan granted by the Committee.

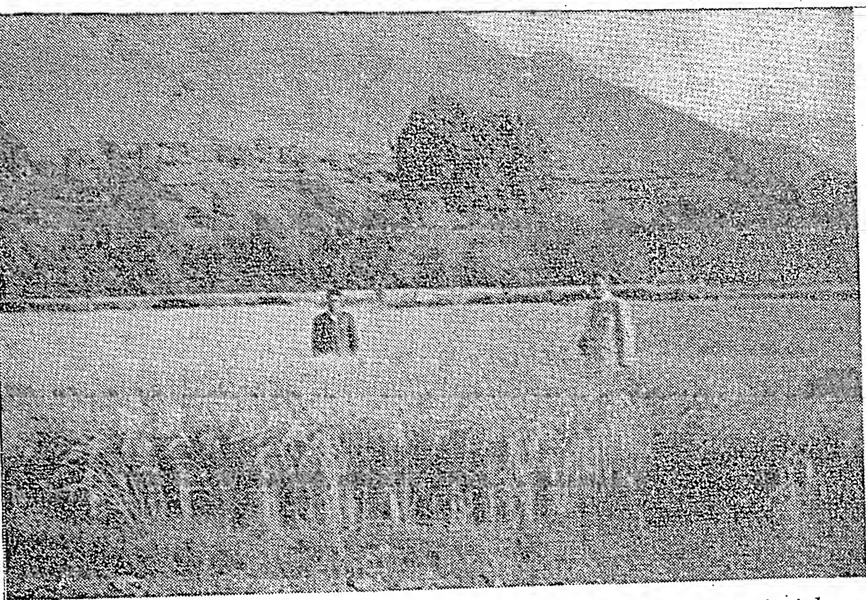
At the Central Coconut Research Station, Kasaragod work has been going on on intravarietal and intervarietal hybridization and studies in button shedding, barrenness in nuts, soil moisture, etc. About 15,000 seednuts were planted in the nursery at the Station in June, 1952. About 3,400 coconut seedlings were sold to the public from the Station during April-June.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Investigations of the pests and diseases of the coconut palm have been undertaken at the Central Coconut Research Station, Kayangulam. Insecticidal trials were also conducted against the rhinoceros beetle, the black headed caterpillar, the red palm weevil and cockchafer grubs, all serious pests of the coconut palm, besides virus transmission trials to find out if the root disease is the result of virus attack.

The work of spraying coconut palms with copper fungicides to combat the leaf disease was taken up. During April and May 21,092 trees were sprayed. The total number of coconut trees sprayed from the beginning of December 1951 to end of May 1952 was 68,504.





A crop of China paddy grown at the Central Provincial Agricultural Experimental Farm, Kashmir. Two visitors are seen examining the standing crop

TRIALS WITH CHINESE VARIETIE[S] OF PADDY

By **U. N. CHATTERJI**

THERE is a persistent shortage of foodgrains in India. This is specially well-marked in the case of rice. Rice happens to be the staple food of a large section of people in this country who are generally averse to take to wheat. All possible means, therefore, should be adopted to increase the production of this particular foodgrain. There are varieties of paddy in foreign countries which are known for better agronomic characters. Some of these varieties, which give better yields and are known to be resistant to diseases might possibly be tried in this country and if the trials were successful, their cultivation could be more widely adopted.

CHINESE VARIETIES' HIGHER YIELD

It is worthwhile mentioning in this connection that some trials have already been conducted with Chinese varieties of paddy in this country. Work relating to them has been carried out in various States. The work in Kashmir is of special interest because here it was originally initiated. Certain Chinese varieties of paddy have been introduced into Kashmir and found suitable there. These Chinese varieties take between 120 and 150 days to mature and give yields upto 5,000 lb. of grains per acre in regions where rice is usually grown. These Chinese varieties because of their high yields have become very popular in the State and are being extensively cultivated. They are also said to possess comparative resistance to diseases like blast.

The highly satisfactory results obtained with Chinese varieties in Kashmir have attracted attention. Could they not be introduced to other parts of India with comparable climatic conditions and in localities where short duration varieties are in demand? It may be mentioned here that some of these varieties under warmer conditions on the plains of India mature between 85 and 105 days. Chinese varieties have been tried in various rice growing States to determine their suitability for particular areas. The information so far available regarding their performance in and suitability to different tracts are encouraging.

TRIALS IN DIFFERENT STATES

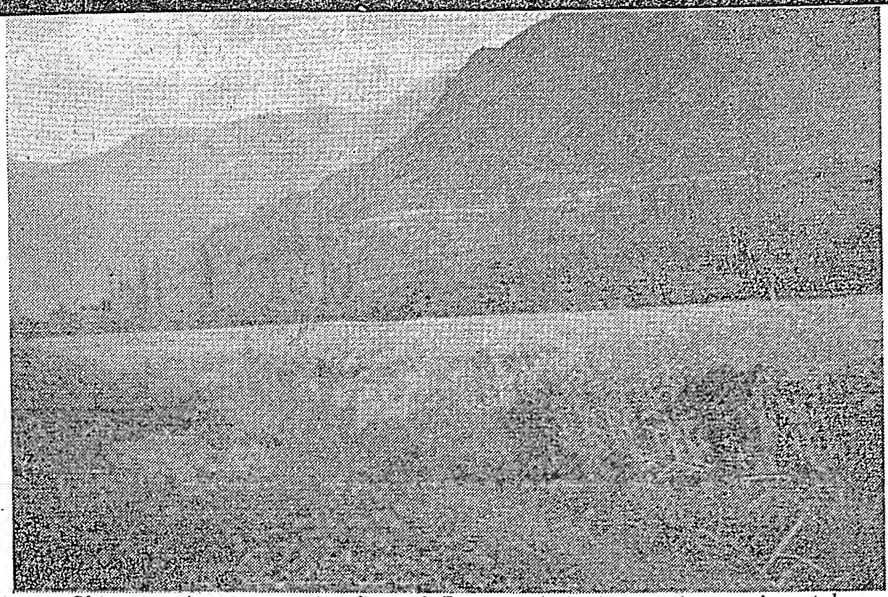
Eight varieties of Chinese paddy were tried in West Bengal and were grown both as 'aus' and 'aman.' Most of the varieties failed to form seeds when sown as 'aus' paddy. However, when grown as 'aman' paddy some of the varieties were quite successful. Some of the varieties tried were Chinese 972, China 996, Hunan Victory, China 1040 and C. N. A. B. 4; their life periods varied from 135 to138 days and yields from 20.27 maunds to 37.86 maunds.

In Uttar Pradesh 36 Chinese varieties were under observation. Four of these were tried in 1950-51 on a field scale under broadcast conditions against the standard varieties in unirrigated tracts. Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 yielded 9 per cent and 30 per cent higher than the standard N. 22. Ch. 1, Ch. 2, Ch. 11 and Ch. 41 yielded respectively 44, 4, 73 and 33 per cent higher than A. 46. In another trial Ch. 6, Ch. 10 and Ch. 12 were found better than T. 21 having produced respectively 39, 6 and 14 per cent higher than the standard one.

Some Chinese varieties were tried in Madras. A few have been found to be promising. It was found that they were mostly short duration varieties taking 85 to 135 days for maturing under Coimbatore conditions. Two Chinese varieties Ch. 45 and Ch. 47 were tried at Ambasamudram in Madras. These gave fairly good yields as compared with the local varieties.

Tests with Chinese varieties of paddy have also been carried out at the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack. The varieties were grown in the Institute farm as also some of the associated farms attached to the Institute. These trials have been in progress since 1947. Out of a number of varieties studied, Ch. 45 and Ch. 47 were found to be the best and were put under regular yield trials for three years. These varieties gave yields of 1572 and 1497 lb. per acre in life periods of 105 days and were comparable to the other short duration varieties like Ptb. 10 and Adt. 20 of the same duration obtained from Madras. Another variety Ch. 2 had the shortest duration among the varieties worked with and matured in 85 days. This was compared with Ch. 45 and Beni Bhog, a local short duration variety. In the trial Ch. 45 did better than the local variety while Ch. 2, with a very short duration, gave about 80 per cent of the yield of Ch. 45.

Another trial was carried out in 1951-52. In this trial more Chinese varieties were chosen and compared



China paddy crop at the Central Provincial Agricultural Experimental Farm, Kashmir. It shows a high number of tillers per plant. In spite of distant transplantations the heads present a compact appearance

with Beni Bhog and Madras varieties Ptb. 10, Co. 13 and Adt. 20. The crop periods in all these varied from 105 to 110 days, and the output of the Chinese varieties Ch. 45, Ch. 47, Ch. 54, Ch. 62 and Ch. 63, varying from 1304 lb. to 1665 lb. per acre, was on the whole favourably comparable with that of the others except Adt. 20 which produced 1870 lb.

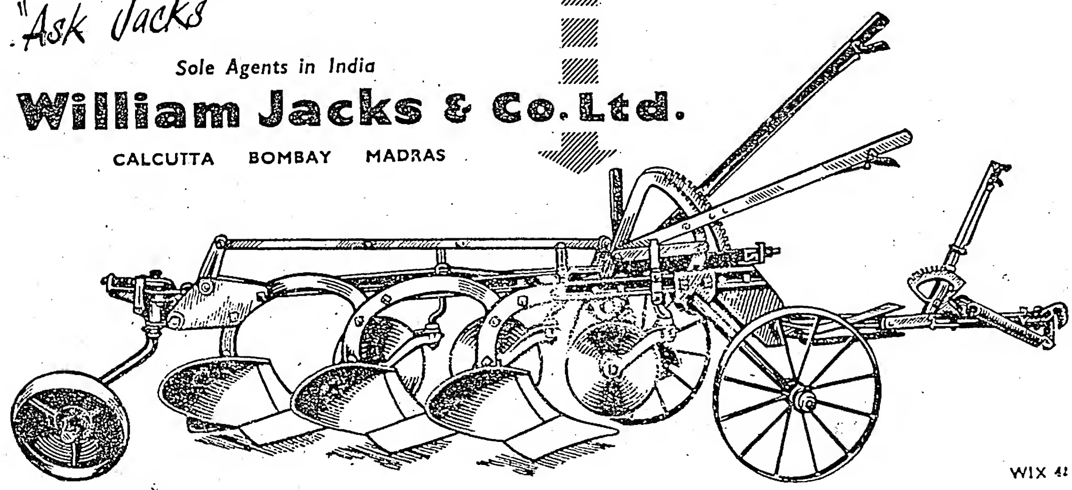
The Chinese varieties Ch. 2, Ch. 45 and Ch. 47 were also compared for yield against DI. 4 a local second crop variety and Ptb. 10 and Co. 13. It was evident from the results that the Chinese varieties were suitable for the second crop season in Orissa, although the other varieties were equally good or even better. Chinese varieties have white rice of medium quality and were found fairly resistant to diseases.

D. V. C. IN FIELD

The Damodar Valley Corporation were supplied with seeds of some Chinese varieties. The Corporation reported that the Chinese varieties had impressed the local farmers well because of their earliness and ability to mature even under abnormal drought conditions.

There is a general impression in various States that the Chinese varieties will do well. But at the same time it must be admitted that the possibility of their general adoption by paddy cultivators in this country must be more critically examined and thoroughly explored and for this purpose cooperative trials with a number of Chinese varieties are being conducted in various ricegrowing States by the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.

Photographs for this article were supplied by Shri G. M. Butt, Director of Agriculture, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar.



INCREASING YIELDS BY COMBATING EROSION ON THE STUDENTS' FARM

By **D. G. DAKSHINDAS,** College of Agriculture, Nagpur

An effort was made to get better yields of *kharif* crops by combating the ill effects of soil erosion and surface run off on the sloping fields of the second year students' area of the Nagpur Agriculture College during the *kharif* season 1951-52.

SITUATION OF THE FIELDS

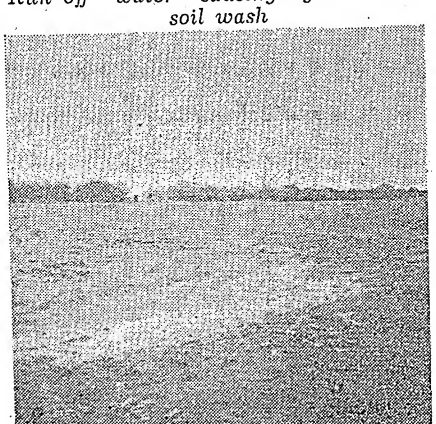
The three acres of second year students' fields of the Agriculture College were situated at two different places. One acre of cotton was situated in field No. 2 of the College farm. Two acres—one for *juar* and and one for *tuar* were allocated in a part of field 8-A. This portion of the field was very slopy, slope being in the south-north direction to a greater extent and west-east direction to a lesser extent. On account of this slopy condition, water ran down and flew across and accumulated in the students' fields. This caused erosion of soil and surface run off. And due to surface run off and underground movement of water, the field remains water stagnated for a long time.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The monsoon during the year had started by the 18th of June, but did not set till the 24th when good showers (0.95 in.) were received.

The land was *bakhared* in the last week of June and crop stubbles

Run-off water causing gullies and soil wash

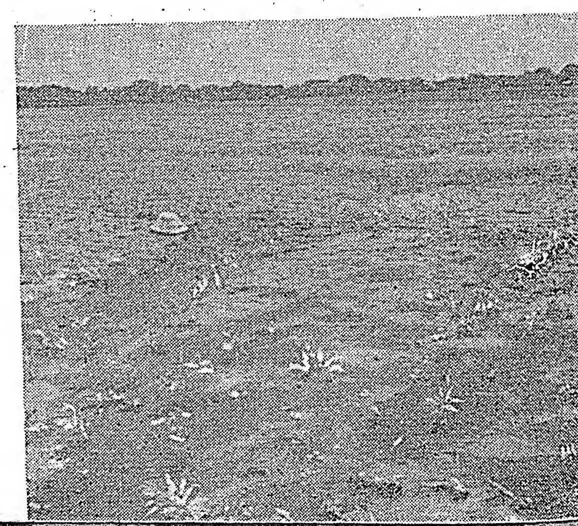


picked and removed. Another *bakharing* was given just before sowing. Cotton was sown on the 29th of June. Cotton was sown by the local system called "baroli", i.e. 12 lines of cotton had alternated with every two lines of *tuar*. It is probable that this method, in addition to forming a sort of simultaneous rotation with legume, affords protection to the main crop of cotton. This arrangement also facilitates work by students in batches as the cotton field is subdivided into plots by the alternating lines of *tuar*. On the cultivator's field this is likely to permit labour control. Tuar crop sown in this fashion is said to yield better than when entire field is sown is *tuar* alone. It was observed last season that the plants of three *tuar* lines showed more branching and better pod filling. This observation was substantiated by actual yields calculated in area basis the yield of *tuar* from this alternating lines was as much as 2,016 lb. as against 650 lb. obtained from the entire one acre field of *tuar*. This perhaps is the reason why *tuar* is always sown by a majority of cultivators in mixture with other crops and rarely as a pure crop.

Juar and *tuar* sowing were done on the 14th July. Germination of all crops was satisfactory. However, setting in of monsoons was followed by an anxious period of break and week showers during the last fortnight of July and further by a period of continuous rains in late July and early August. This resulted in profuse growth of weeds, checking the growth rate of main crop and making them stunted. The peculiar lie of these fields of *juar* and *tuar* made the situation worse. Slope coupled with bad drainage resulted in the accumulation of water from the stretch of fields in the north into the *juar* and *tuar* fields thus causing

2nd year students of Agricultural College, Nagpur, picking cotton in their field

Construction of bunds to check surface run-off

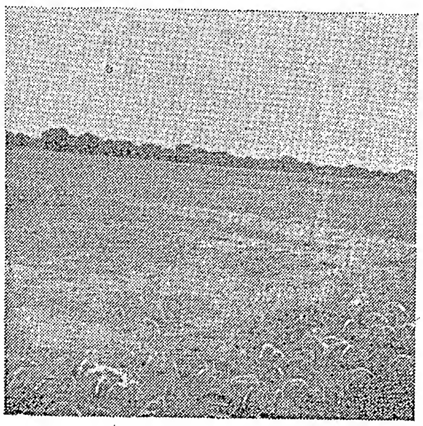


Stunted growth of juar *due to water stagnation and surface run-off*

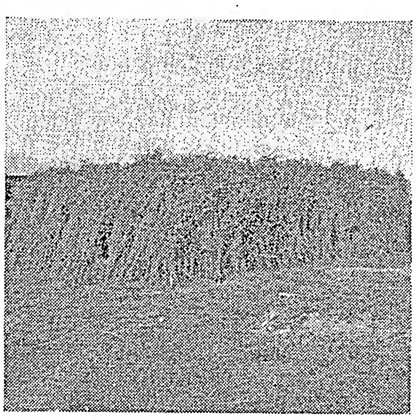
big gullies and scurrying the soil at various places. This resulted in the stunted growth of crops and at places blank patches were left.

COMBATING SOIL EROSION AND RUN OFF

Due to conditions noted above a severe failure of crops was feared and means had to be devised to



The condition of the field during rains



The heap of tur—from 2nd Year students' one-acre field

Rain-water flowing in gully from higher to lower fields

overcome the situation. The students rallied round and prepared on the 2nd August 1951, a bund across the western border to check the large volume of water flowing in from outer fields. The water was thus directed to go into drains along the road. However, it was found that though surface run off of water was checked to great extent, underground movement of water from higher portion to lower fields continued, keeping the field down below stagnated. For this small surface drains were prepared in the fields to let out water. This helped the soil to come into working condition much earlier.

STIMULATING GROWTH BY FERTILIZER APPLICATION

The delicate and slender condition of *kharif* crops, resulting from the early period of water stagnation, was improved to a great extent by a dose of ammonium sulphate which was broadcast in the cotton and *juar* fields on the 21st August at the rate of 15 lb. of nitrogen per acre. This was followed by hoeings and weedings from time to time as permitted by the weather conditions. The result was that within a month's time the crop improved to a great extent and showed a vigorous growth.

The monsoon became very weak by the end of August, and during September and October only 5.4 ins. and 3.9 ins. of rain was received respectively. The moisture in the field had to be maintained by continued stirring of soil and checking surface evaporation. About four hoeings were given after fertilizer application to keep off weeds and conserve moisture. The condition of cotton was not what it could have been, because of the field being very much weedy and weedings could not be undertaken oftener. Due to Divali vacation given to students first picking was delayed till the 17th November and was followed by only two more pickings at about intervals of about 3 weeks.

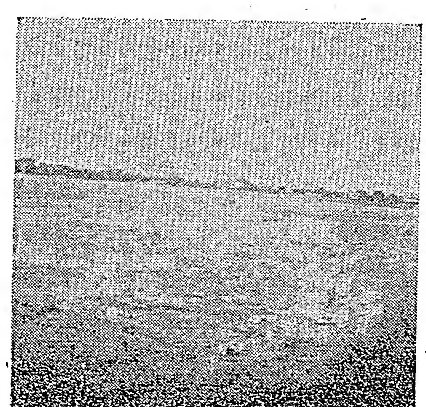
In spite of the fact that the field where students plots were situated, was ill drained and slopy, it was possible to obtain very good yields last year. Though weather conditions might be responsible to a certain extent for the higher yields. But the main credit goes to the students. They constructed at the appropriate time the bund to check surface flow of water into the field and the surface drains. The growth of stunted pale plants was stimulated by a top dressing of nitrogenous fertilizers. And the hoeings that were given, helped to step up production.

The following are the yield figures obtained from one acre each of cotton, *tuar* and *juar*.

Area	*Yield*
COTTON	
1. One acre (less area occupied by *tuar* lines)	633 lb. *capas*
2. Calculated from above for one acre	706 lb. *capas*
JUAR	
One acre	1800 cobs 1430 grains 6000 lb. *kadbi*
TUAR	
1. One acre	650 lb. grain
2. Tuar sown in lines in cotton field	288 lb. Total 938 lb.

The students by their practical work have been convinced of the fact that very good yields (more than twice than the normal yield of a cultivator) are possible to be obtained provided care is taken to:

1. Sow the crop in time in a well prepared seed bed.
2. Remove, wherever necessary, adverse conditions created by ill-drained soils and by constructing suitable land and surface drains check erosion and surface run off.
3. Give a top dressing of a nitrogenous fertilizer after the period of heavy rains in July and August, in order to stimulate growth rate.
4. Keep the soil in between plant rows stirred and clean by giving as many hoeings and weedings as possible.



The condition of the fields during rains

AGRICULTURAL NEWS FROM PUNJAB & MYSORE

PUNJAB

Cotton : The work of improvement of cotton crop in the State is being carried out under five schemes financed by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. Under one of the schemes efforts are being made to evolve suitable medium staple cottons for the Hariana tract. One early maturing and drought resistant variety, numbered as 216F and christened as Hariana *kapas*, has already been isolated from American varieties and given out to the cultivators.

Efforts are being made to improve this cotton still further, and some better strains are in the offing. The second scheme aims at the multiplication and distribution of the seed of Hariana *kapas* and is in full swing. The third scheme envisages the evolution of suitable medium staple cottons for cultivation in the central districts.

The aim of the fourth scheme is to increase the area under L. S. S. Cotton in Ferozepur district. According to the fifth scheme, medium staple cotton superior to L. S. S. are to be evolved. Besides the Government of India is financing the Cotton Extension Scheme, according to which the seed of improved cottons is to be supplied to the cultivators and all possible help to be rendered to them by way of improving water supply, arranging for fertilizers, controlling of pests and diseases, etc.

Wheat : A variety numbered as C. 281 and suitable for the Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hissar districts has been hybridised and given out to the cultivators of this tract. On an average it gives 2 maunds of wheat per acre more than the standard variety C.591.

Barley : The Department of Agriculture has a barley breeding substation at Gurgaon since 1937, where efforts are being made to improve the appearance of the famous malting and brewing barley Punjab type 4.

Rice : From the experiments conducted at the Rice Breeding Sub-Station, Gurdaspur, it was found out that mid-June transplantings gave greater yields. Gurdaspur is situated in a sub-montane tract, and has an assured water supply in the form of natural precipitation supplemented by artificial irrigation. Again, application of 40 lb. of nitrogen in the form of ammonium sulphate proved to be the most economical dose for paddy.

MYSORE

EXTENSION PROJECT

Extension work has been going on in the State for the last few months, with the coming of the American experts.

It is proposed to train personnel for running the community projects starting with the Shimoga district. The persons trained for the Ford-Foundation Pilot centre, located at Malavalli in the Mandya district, have taken up their work in right earnest.

Agricultural Education : Agricultural education, especially that given in the Kannada agricultural schools has been modified, so as to admit farmers' sons for a practical training of six months, the idea being to equip them with the knowledge of improved agricultural methods thereby making infusion of progressive ideas into the villages easy.

The Mysore Agricultural and Experimental Union : The Union consisting of subscribing members affords the Department of agriculture a ready medium by which to bridge the gulf between agricultural research and the common man's farming. The Union publishes two journals a Kannada monthly and an English quarterly. During the last one year the Union has sponsored holding of field days in the villages comprising of farm operations competitions, exhibitions of cattle and machinery, etc.

—M. V. MURTHY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question :

We planted some turmeric rhizomes as a trial crop in the last season. The crop was excellent. But as there is no market for raw turmeric in this locality, would you kindly let us know one or more simple and practical methods of curing turmeric ?—Farm Manager, Govt. Farm, Pasighat.

CURING OF TURMERIC

Answer :

The harvested crop is first *cleaned* of earth and other foreign matter and subjected to a slight *sweating* by keeping it in heaps covered by turmeric leaves for about 1-2 days. It is then taken out and *shaped* by splitting " rounds ", cutting longer " fingers ", etc., into uniform size and shape to facilitate uniform processing and curing. Next step consists of *boiling* in large vessels of water (sometimes with the addition of a little cow-dung or a few turmeric leaves). Recent experiments in the Council's scheme in Udayagiri (Orissa) showed that the finished product by using steam alone was superior to other methods where turmeric leaves and cow-dung were used. However, when the material becomes sufficiently soft due to cooking and yields, to a slight pressure between the finger and the thumb (somewhat like the boiled waxy potato), it is taken out and *dried* in sun for about 7-8 days. The well dried material is then cleaned and rubbed well (sometimes with a little turmeric powder).

It may be added that in the Turmeric Research Scheme, Orissa, improved furnaces and polishers are already evolved, after years of research, for the benefit of turmeric growers. The economics of the working of these furnaces have also been worked out. (I. C. A. R.)

Question :

The flowers of mango trees are usually destroyed during cloudy weather, by some pests. What steps should be taken to prevent this ? (B.K.I.)

Answer :

Mango flowers are generally infested with the pest known as 'mango hopper'. For the purpose of preventing damage from this pest, spraying with D.D.T. (0.16% to 0.25%) has been found useful. The spraying should be done as soon as the bunches of flower make their appearance in the beginning of the spring season. DDT emulsion or wettable DDT (Guesarol 550) can be used in the strength as stated above.

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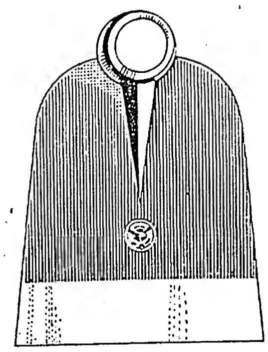

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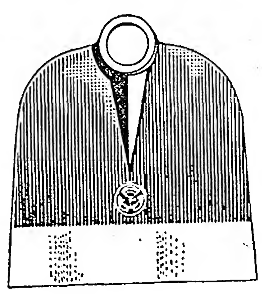

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HOW TO GET THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE APPLICATION OF FERTILIZERS

By **R. D. VERMA,**
Division of Agronomy,
Indian Agricultural Research
Institute, New Delhi.

IN countries like the U.K., the U.S.A., Australia, agricultural scientists have shown, that to get the full benefit from the application of fertilizers, it is not only sufficient to know what and how much manures to apply to a crop, but *how* to apply it, is just as important. As a result of their findings, the traditional method of broadcasting the manures, has generally been replaced by more scientific and economical method called *placement of fertilizers*. In India, however, this important aspect of manuring has yet to receive sufficient attention. The primary object of this article is to draw the attention to this important subject

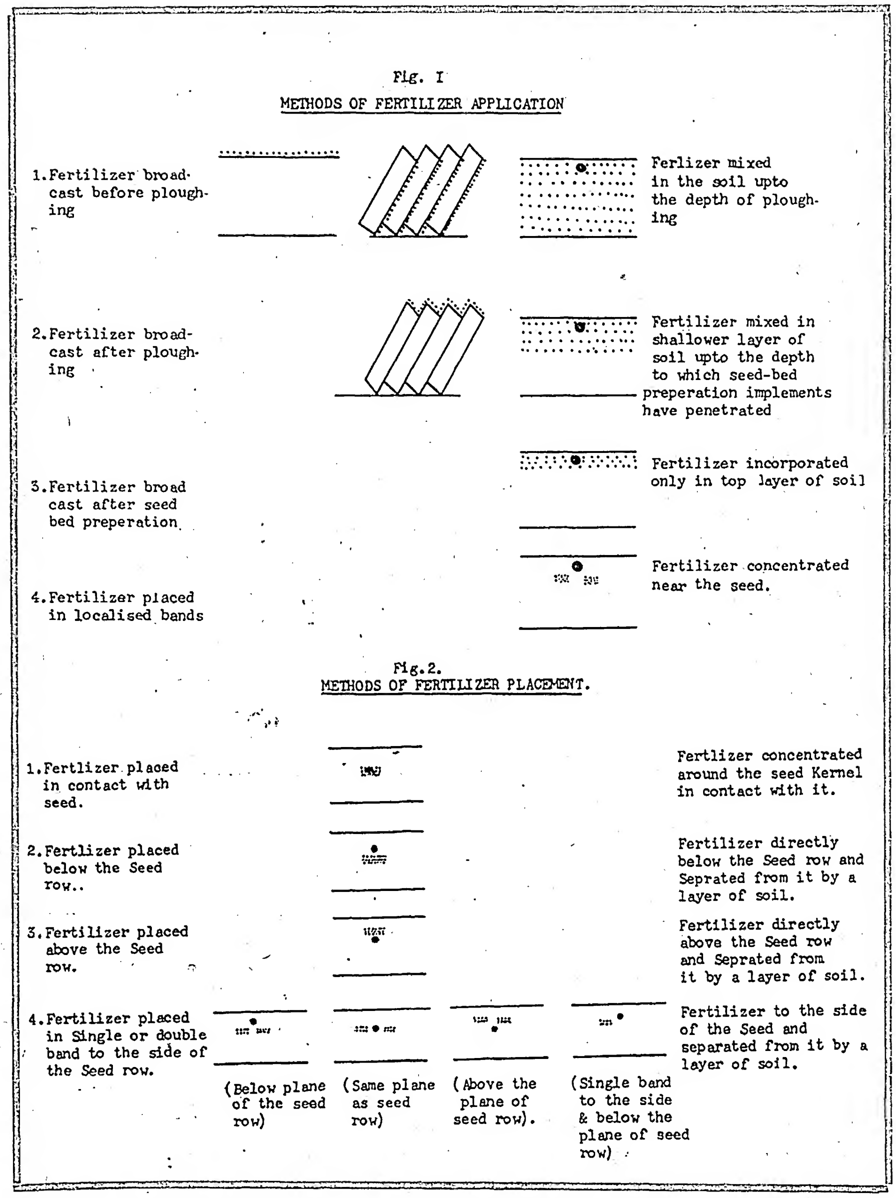

Fig. I
METHODS OF FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Fig. 2.
METHODS OF FERTILIZER PLACEMENT.

WHAT IS PLACEMENT OF FERTILIZERS AND WHAT ARE ITS ADVANTAGES

The placement of fertilizer simply means that the fertilizer instead of being broadcast at some stage before sowing, is drilled, in localized bands, near the seed at the time of sowing. Fig. 1. The advantages of such a method of application are obvious. Firstly, because the fertilizer has been placed near the root zone, it becomes readily available to the crop plants and is, therefore, more fully utilized. Losses of valuable nitrogen due to leaching, deintrification, uptake by weeds, are greatly reduced. The phosphates which become quickly fixed and immobile when once applied to the soil, are better utilized. Secondly, because of the better availability and utilization of fertilizer when suitably placed, substantial increases in yield generally result as compared to equivalent quantity applied broadcast; or alternatively, smaller quantities when placed give comparable yields to larger quantity applied broadcast.

HOW TO PLACE FERTILIZER

In agriculturally advanced countries, where placement has become an established practice, placement machines have been devised for this purpose, but they are rather complicated and expensive for use under present Indian conditions. Moreover, even these machines, have not proved to be entirely satisfactory in all respects. A simple and efficient device suitable for our conditions has, already been developed by the author which enables the fertilizer to be placed at any desired position. This device and its working has been fully explained in the article " A simple device for the placement of Fertilizers " in the July 1952 issue of *Indian Farming*.

WHERE TO PLACE THE FERTILIZER

Fertilizer may be placed at any of the following positions: (*i*) In contact with the seed, i.e. seed and fertilizer is drilled together, or (*ii*) it may be drilled a suitable distance away from the seed (*a*) above or below it or (*b*) on one or both sides of it. (Fig. 2).

It has been found that there is no single method which can be considered best for all crops. The method of placement varies with the crop, fertilizer, weather and the soil.

Research workers in other countries have generally found that :

(*i*) readily soluble nitrogenous and potassic fertilizers prove harmful to germination if placed in contact or too near the seed. Such fertilizers must, therefore, be applied at a suitable distance away from the seed. On the other hand, phosphatic fertilizers have no such adverse effect and give best results when placed in close proximity to the seed. In normal quantities they can safely be drilled with the seed.

(*ii*) Cereals have generally been found to be less adversely affected by contact or close placement than other crops—particularly legumes.

(*iii*) for quick growing, shallow rooted short duration crops, side-band placement has generally proved better than other methods. But for deep rooted crops, better results have been obtained by fairly deep placement directly below the seed row. In long duration, deep rooted crops and in dry season broadcasting is just as good as placement.

(*iv*) Placement of fertilizers has been found to be particularly effective on soils of low fertility. On such soils small amounts of fertilizers when placed have given very high increases in yields.

WORK AT THE INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Realizing the importance of placement of fertilizers, experiments have been conducted by the author and his colleagues in the Division of Agronomy, I.A.R.I., on two crops, potato and maize. Detailed results of these experiments will be published separately in due course. However, in this article brief reference is made to the increases in yield which have resulted from the placement as compared to the broadcast application of different fertilizers. This would indicate that under our conditions substantial increases in yield can be obtained at no extra use of fertilizers, if suitably placed.

In an experiment conducted by the author on the potato crop, broadcasting of different dozes of N.P.K. fertilizers had been compared with two methods of placement ; (*a*) Fertilizers placed in a band one inch directly below the seed tubers and (*b*) fertilizer placed on both sides of the tuber 2½ ins. to the side and 1 in. below the level of seed tubers. Results have indicated that both the methods of placement give higher yields and among the two methods of placement, band placement on both sides of the tuber is superior to single band placement directly below the seed tuber. Increase in yields over broadcast method, of up to 7.8% has been obtained from treatment (*a*), while double band placement has almost doubled this increase to 14.5%. It has also been found that better yields are obtained when nitrogenous fertilizers are applied on the sides of the tuber 2½ ins. away from it, and phosphatic fertilizers below the seed tuber as in treatment (*a*).

Further, equivalent, yields are obtained with 25 to 30% less of fertilizers when placed than when they are broadcast.

On other crops, like maize, under study in the Institute, similar good results have been obtained and increase in yield of up to 33–4% has been obtained by placing the fertilizers directly under the seed that is ploughsole method. The detailed results of these experiments will be published in due course by respective authors.

The results of the pioneer experiments reported above have clearly shown that there is considerable scope in effecting increases in yield and economy in fertilizer use, by placement of fertilizers under our conditions. Although, these studies are being extended to other major crops in this Institute, yet it is necessary that this subject be studied on all-India basis, because as already stated, the best method of placement varies with the crop, fertilizer, soil and weather conditions.

POULTRY BREEDING

(*Continued from page 15*)

come back into production. Therefore even without trapnesting valuable information can be obtained by a system of marking, using coloured leg bands, early and late producers.

INBREEDING

Inbreeding has the undoubted advantage of fixing good characteristics but unfortunately it also has the disadvantage of fixing bad characteristics which may remain dormant. Normally inbreeding is not a safe system to adopt by beginners, for inbreeding without very extensive culling may lower hatchability, increase mortality in the young stock, decrease the rate of growth and increase the age of sexual maturity.

THE MAN OF THE MONTH

(*Continued from page 6*)

In those days, the practice was more universal than now, that one either played games or studied books. Bishan Mansingh did both successfully. I therefore asked him what rules he followed in the game of agriculture. He gave me his 10 commandments. They are :

1. Utilize every inch of land most effectively.
2. Manure your land well. Cultivate it systematically so that the yield can be increased to the maximum.
3. Always use the best seed.
4. Grow several crops ; this is more advantageous.
5. Grow at least one crop of which the yield is certain.
6. Grow green fodder crops after harvesting your general crops, so that you may not have to purchase fodder.
7. Improve your soil. Make unculturable land cultivable.
8. Keep only so much livestock as you can feed well.
9. Keep only serviceable animals ; the weak and sick cattle only eat without doing any work.
10. Keep sheep for wool.

I shall always remember Bishan Mansingh as I saw him at the end of my trip to Habeeb Farm. A tall erect man, with staff in hand, standing amid his fruit trees, while the rain beat all round him, issuing orders to his son and other workers : "Don't forget ammonium sulphate ; look out that the *bundhis* are intact ; destroy the 'gundhee bug '." A true agriculturist, I thought, in all the fibre of his being. Sixtyone but still going strong.

—A. R. VYAS

EDITORIAL NOTES

(*Continued from page 3*)

of the community discover that they can act as leaders, subsequent activities will prove to be much easier.

The extension worker never issues orders, but he offers suggestions and encouragement. It may be considerable trouble for some members of the village community to make a special trip to buy a pulley and a rope ; but even so, this is better than the extension worker making these purchases himself. Finally, when the pulley has been installed and the leaders and villagers discovered the satisfaction of achievement, they will be ready to tackle bigger problems.

SATISFACTION AND SERVICE

Every activity that the extension worker participates in should be dominated by the action of village leaders. For example, some village extension workers are planning bulletin boards on which pictures, announcements, posters, and various other items will be pinned. The temptation will be for the village extension worker to maintain these bulletin boards himself. Even this activity will be more valuable if some village leader can be encouraged to take an interest in keeping the bulletin board attractive and up-to-date. As more people discover the satisfaction derived from being of service to their community and as more people realize the unlimited opportunity available for community and self improvement through self-initiative and action, the whole spirit of the village will improve.

As these leaders develop, the village extension worker will develop also. But he need never to fear the loss of his position because of the emergence of local leadership. He always will be looked upon as a real teacher and leader and everyone will give him credit for all the achievement even though the credit for each individual achievement is always awarded to the active members of the village itself.

Without the development of local leadership any personal achievement obtained by the village extension worker will be lost. The only durable results are those that come through the interested action of the people who eventually benefit by these results. This has been demonstrated many times. It is only those workers who maintain as one of their main objectives the development of the people who will be able to stimulate any worthwhile material development in India's villages.

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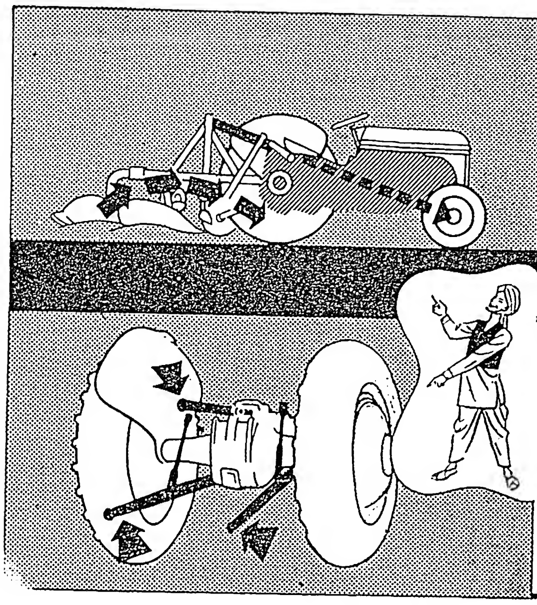

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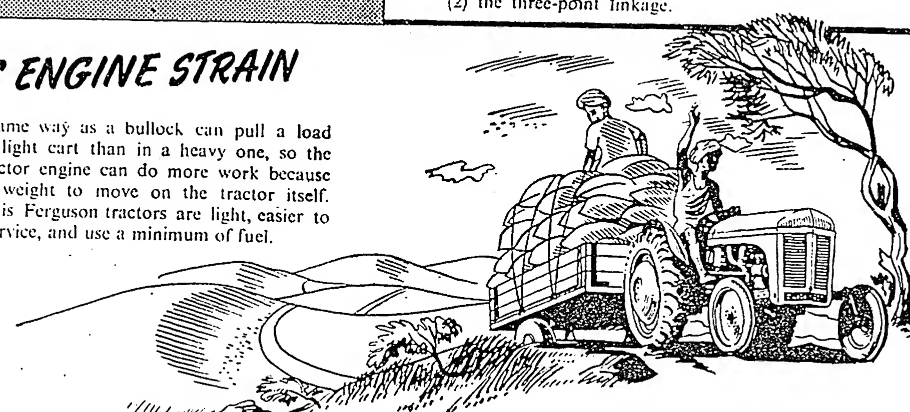

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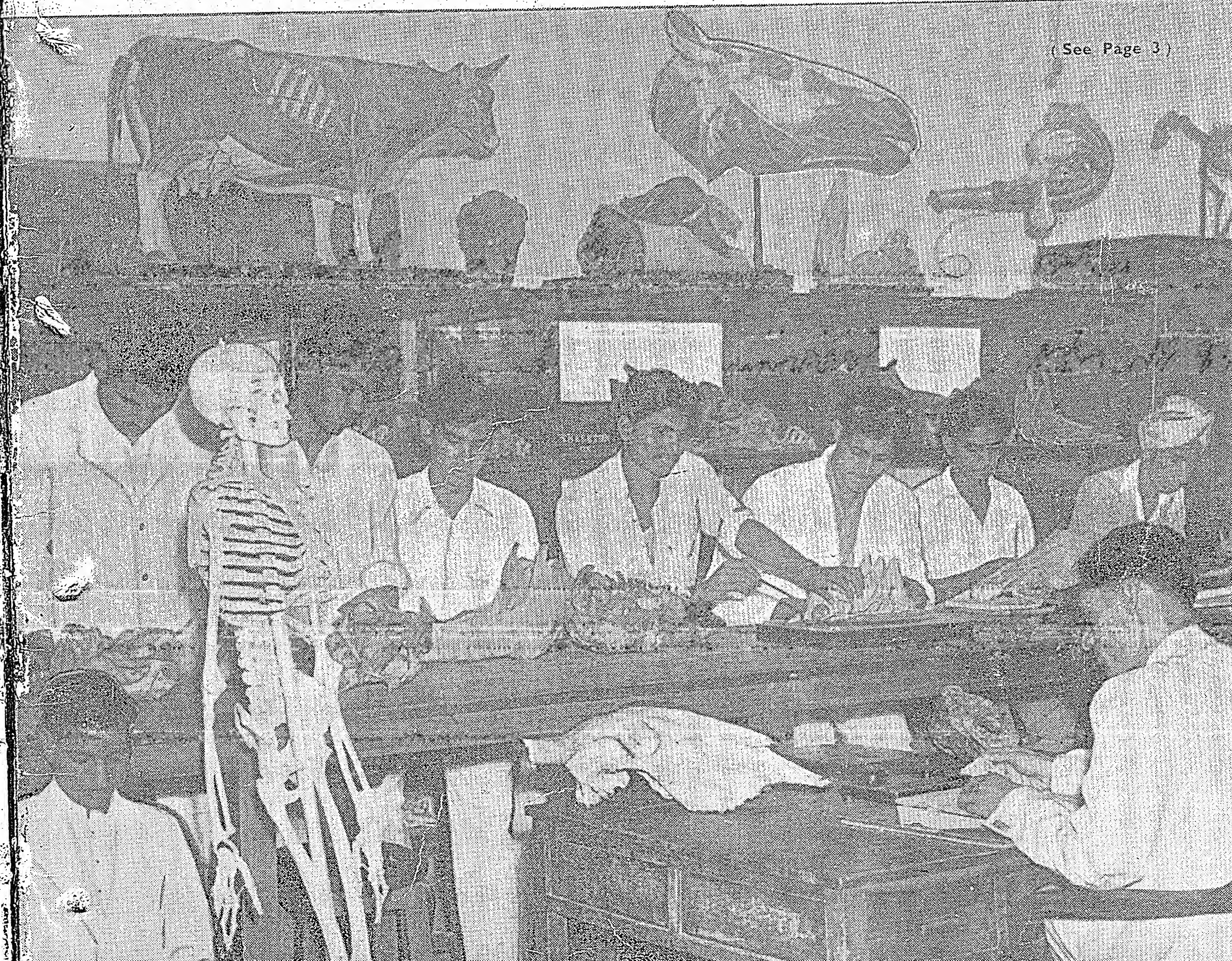
INDIAN FARMING

(See Page 3)



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IMPORTANT AND URGENT

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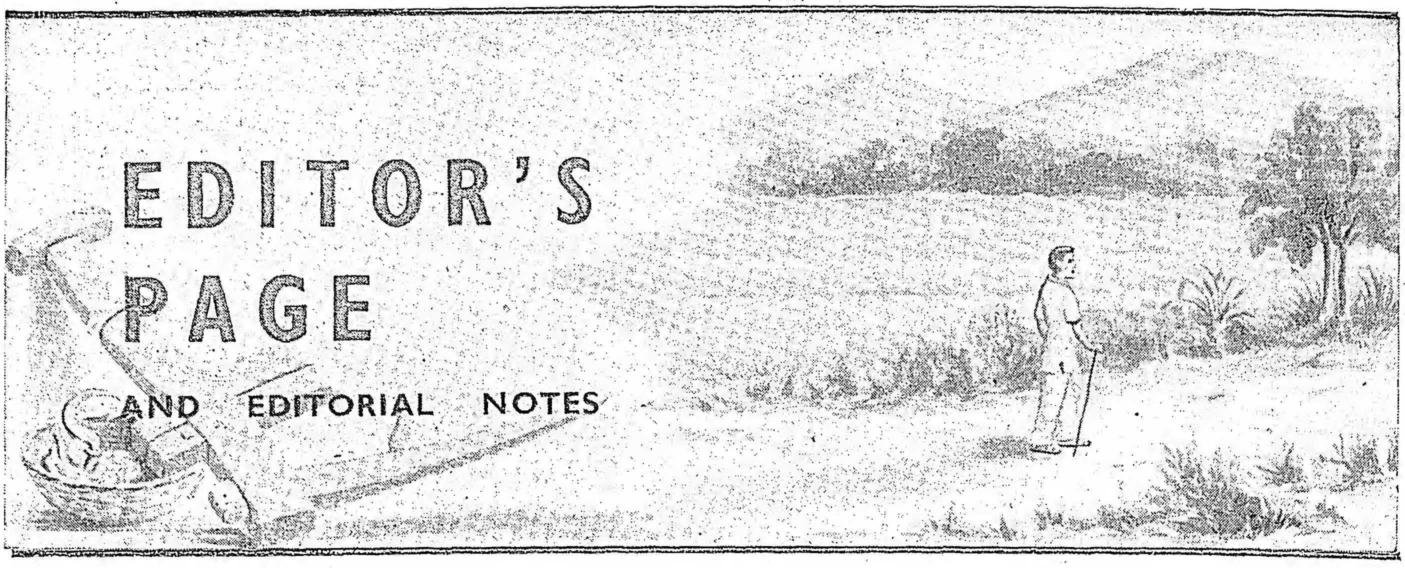


THE LUCKNOW CONFERENCE

People must be conditioned to greatly increased agricultural production. The challenge of this educational problem in India is staggering, and cannot be met by isolated groups working alone. The All-India Agricultural Information Conference scheduled this month in Lucknow can do much to reduce this educational need by enlisting and coordinating the efforts of the various agencies in the country to support the information programme. Such a conference brings together agricultural specialists and extension workers, farm paper and radio editors, cooperative representatives, representatives of machinery, chemical and other trade groups, and information representatives of central and State ministries.

It should be the aim of the delegates to this conference to plan ways to *reach all the farmers* in India. These farmers must be inspired to make the *best use of every cultivable acre of land.* This aim calls for modern communications techniques to supplement the old methods which reached only a few farmers.

An information programme should be planned to arouse interest in the best use of land and to carry information on the best farm practices to the farmer. This information should be supported by scientists and specialists.

To arouse interest, the importance of increased production may be stressed to both farmers and city people. Increased yields to reduce grain imports and thus improve the economic position of the country need continued publicity.

Ways must be found to widely circulate success stories. Stories about achievement of individual farmers offer one of the best ways to encourage the adoption of better practices.

It is hoped that the Conference will analyse the potentialities and limitations of the press, radio, visual aids, and other media for the use of this important campaign. The Conference should decide on practical ways to coordinate all media to get the maximum effect.

One of the most hopeful developments is the cooperation already demonstrated by the private trade groups interested in agriculture. If these trade groups and government can crystallize some kind of a practical cooperative organization interested in the promotion of agricultural education through mass communication means, the Conference will have been a success. On the other hand, the success of any mass educational programme will be eventually measured by the achievement on a village level. Plans will, therefore, be centred around community development, community demonstrations, and individual development and demonstration. The organization will not be easily completed, nor will the execution of any plans come without effort. *But the achievement of the larger aim is essential. There is no alternative.*

INFORMATION AND INFORMATION

"Information" or "publicity" as an organized function comprises two closely inter-related, yet distinctly different kinds of activities. Both employ the same media and methods. Both have the same fundamental purpose: increasing knowledge. In specific orientation, however, the two are quite different and it is highly important that these differences be recognized in planning an information programme and the organization for carrying it out.

"Public information" or "publicity", as the term is used here, has as its primary objective: to create and maintain a sympathetic public understanding and acceptance of a particular government programme or point of view. In a narrow sense, the purpose of this type of information activity is to 'sell' a programme or agency to the people and keep it "sold". It is to government what advertising is to the private business firm. And,

like commercial advertising, "public information" is intended to benefit, *in the first instance*, the particular agency of government whose programme and accomplishments it is publicizing. That is to say, it might be considered as being conducted principally for the benefit of the "supplier" yielding only indirect benefits to the "receiver". Beyond this narrow conception of purpose, however, public information activities of government play a vital role in a democratic society. Only a public which knows and understands the pros and cons of alternatives can exercise the enlightened free choice so essential to democratic government in the best interest of all the people.

The other major branch has in some countries been termed "extension information". This type of specialized information activity is concerned primarily with acquainting farmers, businessmen, manufacturers *et al* with improved techniques in their respective fields and encouraging their adoption. An extension information programme, therefore, is aimed specifically toward making the fruits of research and operating experience quickly available to a large number of potential users in the interest of increasing efficiency and thus raising the general standard of life. It is intended to benefit, *in the first instance*, the "receivers" of the information on improved techniques, secondly, the whole population and indirectly, the "supplier" of the information. This branch of government information activities also has its counterpart in the commercial field. The market news reports, educational materials, etc. which many firms supply to their customers or the general public are in the nature of service information as contrasted with pure advertising.

No one would contend seriously that a hard and fast line can or should be drawn between "publicity" and "extension information" either in principle or practice. The two are inseparably interwoven. Either produces both kinds of results—*but in a different order*. This distinction seems to warrant special attention in an overall information programme and organization. A programme geared specially to "publicity" goals usually is a rather ineffective means for getting research results in the hands of those who can use them. It usually is even less effective in stimulating people to adopt practices recommended since publicity characteristically is often viewed as the persuasion of special interests. Conversely, essential research may starve for lack of public knowledge and understanding of its contribution toward achieving a better way of life for all. "Extension information" alone is inadequate for this purpose.

To be really effective an information programme must meet both types of needs. And to meet them effectively, the fact must be recognized that these needs are different and so require different approaches, different materials and, perhaps, even different organizations to carry out specialized programmes.

OUR COVER

Students at work in the bone room of the Veterinary College, Mathura.

It contains about 700 different kinds of bones of the animals concerned.

FARMER OF THE MONTH

MUQURRAB BEGUM

LADY FARMER OF BHESAKHEDI

AT last the 19 months old monopoly of the mere male has been broken. The feature *Man of the Month* has been dominated by the males since its inception and it is in the fitness of things that a lady now appears on the stage and takes her bow as the lady farmer of the month.

Muqurrab Begum is a lady of Bhopal, well known amongst agricultural circles as a progressive farmer who took over her father's estate, heavily loaded with debts some 15 years ago and made it into a first class modern farm. This farmer, who is also the village head woman, has 325 acres of land in three blocs situated at Bhesakhedi, Amla and Bhavri. Most of the land is under wheat, cotton and gram.

THE BEGUM TAKES OVER

On being asked who was responsible for getting her into this predicament, the Begum turned on me and said that she considered this a privileged position and would not give it up for anything. She told me that her father was a well known scholar and helped in compiling the Imperial Gazetteer and, as a scholar, had no interest in farming. Her mother had to look after the farm but found the task a little too much for her. The result was that Muqurrab Begum had to step in. It certainly was not an easy way to arrive at the position she occupies now. The farm was badly neglected. There was hardly any capital to meet day to day expenses and, what is more, there was no male relative on whom to rely. Not daunted by these difficulties, the Begum took over the reins of management and started personal supervision of all the chores on the farm. If there was any ploughing to be done, the Begum would be there. Nobody could start sowing unless it was under the Begum's eyes. As a matter of fact, she once had a foreman who charged the estate 8 maunds of seeds when actually he had used some 5 maunds. On discovering this, the Begum fired the man on the spot and decided to do everything

The Begum plans to clear every inch of her land

herself. By gradually marshalling all the resources and carefully planning her field operations, she wiped off all the debts and started on a programme of expansion. Whereas she started with a hundred acres of land, today she has 325 acres.

On being asked whether she could be considered a *jagirdar* in the true sense of the word, she retorted that had she been one she would have lost all her lands before now. She was a farmer first and last and all the land she has, has been acquired after sweat and toil of years.

THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE

In those good old days when father was engaged in compiling the Gazetteer and mother was trying to figure out whether to plough first or to look after the home, the yield was naturally nominal. By gradually toning up the land and through personal supervision, today this farm can boast of an average of 15 maunds of wheat per acre. One of the main problems confronting this lady was soil erosion and it was only after trying out crop rotation and paying attention to the correct management of soil that this problem has now been overcome. Attention has also been paid to water conservation and attempt is made to utilize to the maximum all the rains the fields get. The Begum does not believe in growing vegetables for marketing because in this area the vegetables are normally eaten away by stray cattle allowed to graze on open land—without any let or hindrance.

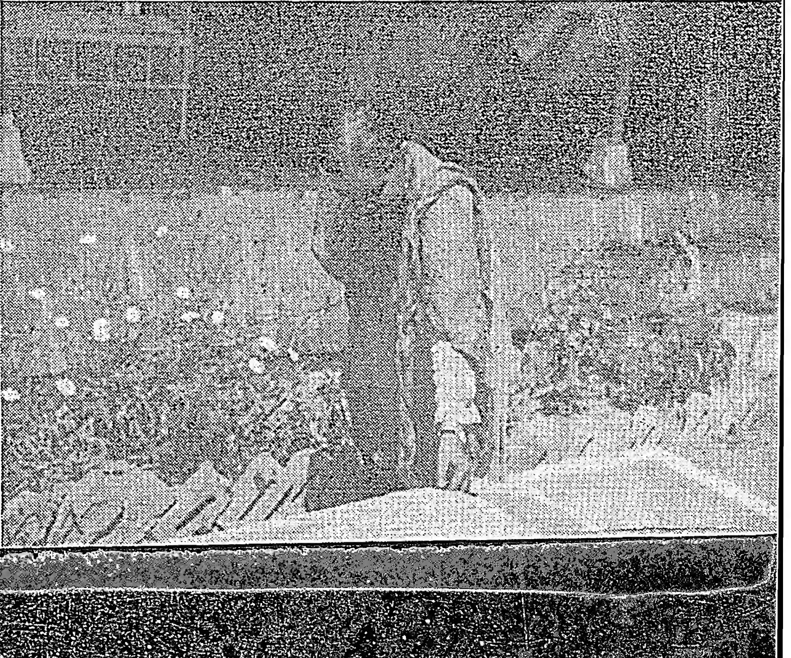
This year the lady has gone in for a tractor and has also made arrangements to provide for lift irrigation for the farm. By having complete control over all phases of field operations and by the virtue of her position as the village head woman, a certain responsibility has devolved on her shoulders. She has to act as a mother to the villagers and look after their welfare, act as their guide and generally be on hand to help them out of their difficulties. She also provides work for 20 villagers on her farm and is on very good terms with the peasantry in the area. She has taken on new land broken very recently near Bhavri and plans to grow cotton to supplement her existing production. She is convinced that there are excellent opportunities for a self-reliant farmer and she praises the new techniques now being introduced by the local department of agriculture.

THE PROBLEMS

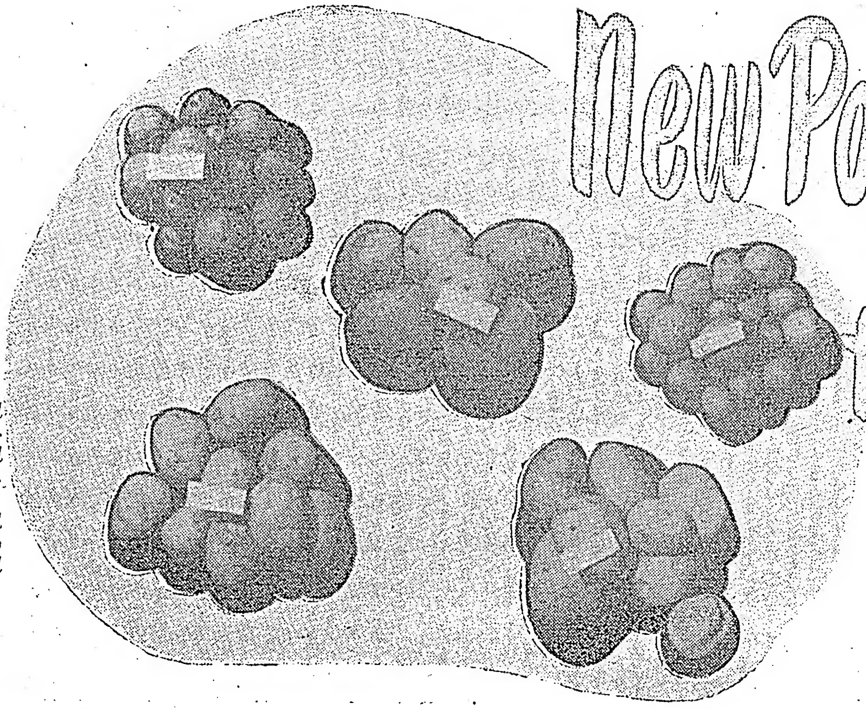
She wants good roads connecting the villages and feels that with the material help from the government and voluntary labour provided by the villagers themselves, construction of roads, bunds and minor irrigation works should not present any difficulty. She and her villagers are always on the look out for more land but in that particular area there is hardly an unoccupied acre. The result is they cannot expand. Another problem facing the villagers in the area is that of adequate irrigation but the development project launched recently has included Bhesakhedi and surrounding villages. This will no doubt lead to an all round improvement in the village conditions and will also

(*Continued on page 32*)

Examining the wheat



New Potatoes for Old



Top (left and right Darjeeling Red Round and Phulwa respectively Centre and below New improved varieties

By **M. J. DESHMUKH**
Central Potato Research Institute, Patna

FOR millions of people who live in the vast plains of India cultivation of hardly half a million acres of potatoes is indeed inadequate. One of the reasons for such low production of this useful commodity is the non-availability of suitable varieties which could profitably be grown under conditions prevailing in the diverse climatic and soil tracts of the plains. At present only four varieties, namely, Phulwa, Darjeeling Red Round, Gola and Up-to-Date are commercially grown in the plains under a plethora of colourful names. The first two varieties cover over 80 per cent of the area in the plains. The need for more and better varieties is thus obvious. Moreover, a noteworthy feature about potato is its sensitive response to climatic conditions which exert a profound influence on yield. Although a single variety may do fairly well over a wide range of area (as is the situation today), a variety particularly suited for a specific set of climatic conditions would do even better. Such regionalization of improved varieties is an important step towards maximizing the yields of this food crop. At the Central Potato Research Institute, Patna, a small team of workers is engaged in this persuit.

HYBRIDIZATION

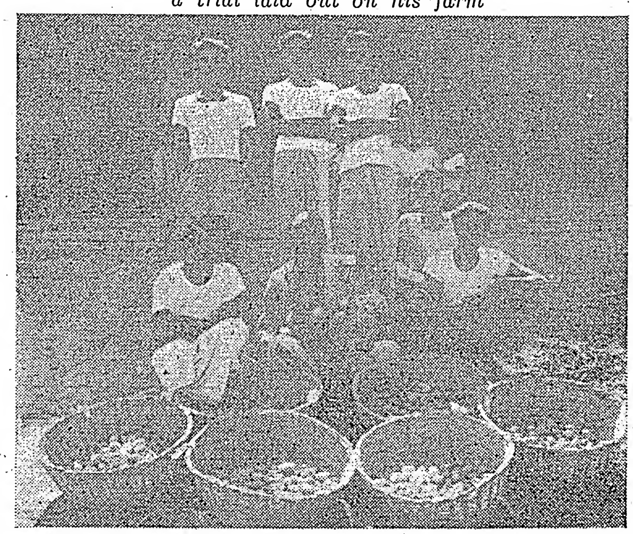
As a first step, a very large number of foreign commercial varieties and the wild relatives of potatoes from South America have been collected and are under close study with a view to judging their potential merits. Being foreign to our conditions the imported varieties are not suitable for direct cultivation. Efforts are therefore, made to incorporate desirable attributes of foreign varieties into the local types by methods of hybridization.

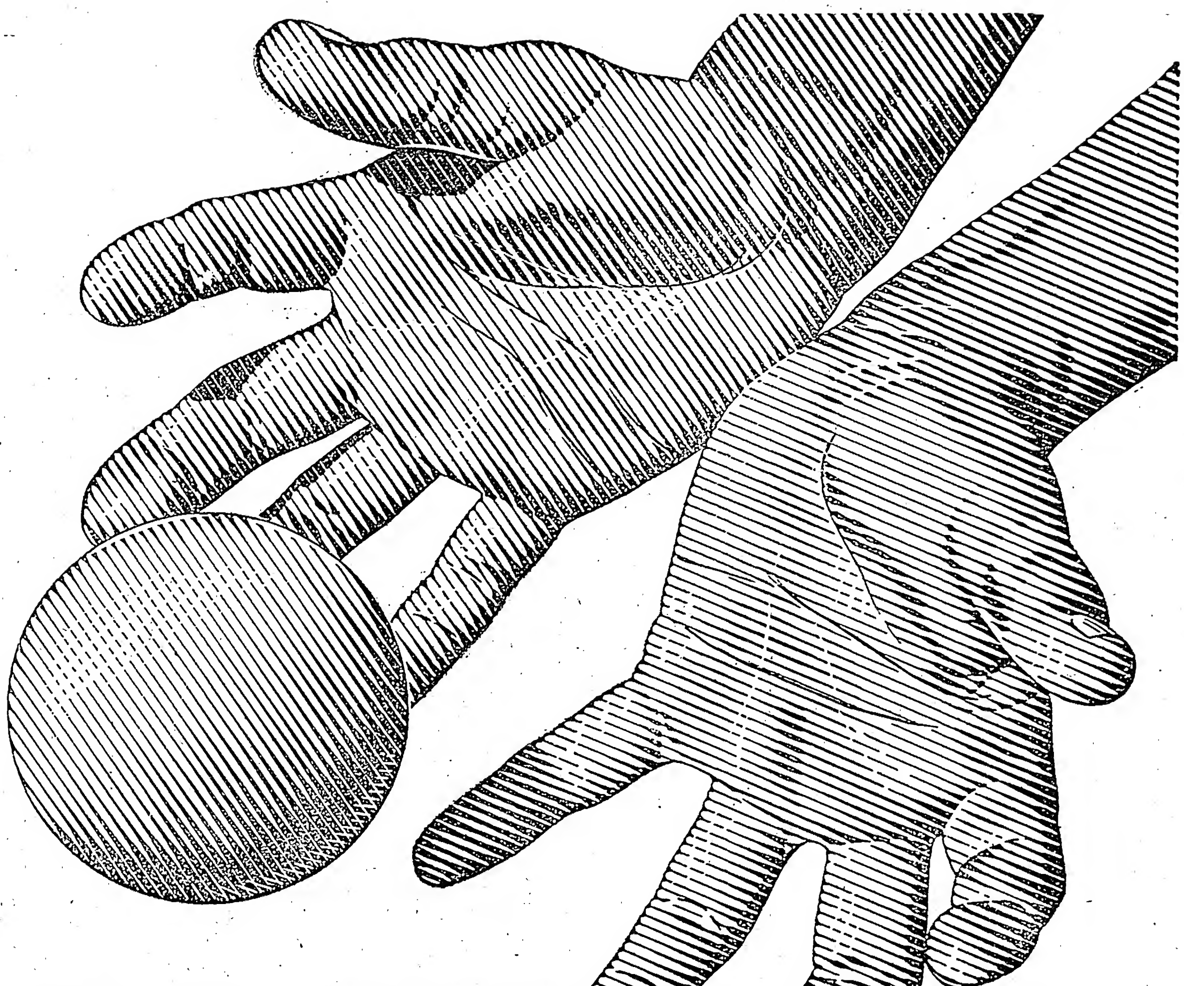
At the Institute's Sub-station at Simla (where potatoes, which fail to flower in the plains, flower profusely) crossing (mating) of suitable parental varieties is done in accordance with a planned scheme. The true seeds (which somewhat resemble the tomato seed) are carefully collected from grape-like fruits known

(*Continued on page 27*)

A family with its harvest of new varieties of potatoes

An educated cultivator from a village near Patna is happy to see a healthy and vigorous crop of improved varieties in a trial laid out on his farm





Hints to the farmer :

Rabi Fodders

By

P. M. DABADGHAO, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

A good and successful farmer always makes adequate provision of fodder in his cropping programme for the feeding of his work and milch animals. He knows that due attention given to the feeding of his cattle more than repays him in terms of increased efficiency in agricultural operations leading to better yields and increase in the milk production. In this note I propose to describe some important *rabi* fodders with general hints on their methods of cultivation. These hints will be of use to farmers in their choice of fodder crops suited to their requirements.

Rabi fodder crops which are commonly grown in different parts of the country are berseem, lucerne, *senji*. *methra* and *shaftal* amongst the legumes and oats and *rabi jowar* among non-legumes. To this list may be added two less known but very useful crops, viz. rape and turnips. It may be emphasized that each of the above mentioned fodder crops has its own distinct useful character making it suitable for certain conditions as will be clear from the notes given below.

BERSEEM

Berseem (Egyptian clover) is one of the best *rabi* fodders in India, which is especially true on farms where the irrigation water is not a limiting factor. As its name indicates its original home is in Egypt from which country it was brought to India in 1904. Since then, its cultivation has steadily extended especially in the northern India where the climatic conditions are favourable for its growth. It is an excellent soil improving crop. It may be remembered that its introduction in rotation with cotton has been considered as epoch making in the Egyptian agriculture. Wherever conditions are favourable berseem should be the preferred crop.

Soil : It can be grown on all types of soils but best crop can be obtained on clay loam soils. It can also grow well on alkaline soils. In fact, berseem has been used for reclamation of alkali lands in Egypt.

Climate : The climatic conditions best suited for the optimum growth of berseem can be said to be those obtaining under north Indian conditions where the winters are dry and prolonged. As we go towards south the performance of berseem becomes less and less striking.

Time of sowing : The earliest sowing of berseem can be started by about the end of September and can be continued to the middle of November. If sown earlier, the seedlings are likely to be damaged by heat.

Preparatory tillage : It should be remembered that the seed of berseem is very costly and therefore due attention paid to the soil preparation will pay in terms of increased fodder production. The land should be ploughed 3-4 times, followed by beaming to bring it into fine condition. The land should be properly levelled and laid out in small 1/10th to 1/20th acre plots for facilitating irrigation.

Manuring : If grown on poor soils, 20 cartloads of well decomposed farmyard manure may be applied. Phosphatic manuring of berseem has shown very good results at this Institute and 2 to 3 maunds of superphosphate (triple) may be applied before sowing to get higher yields.

Seed rate : Eight to ten seers of berseem seed would be enough to sow one acre. It is advisable to use one to two seers more when the crop is sown early in September.

Method of sowing : The seed may be soaked in water for 10-12 hours before sowing. The land should be irrigated first and seed broadcast in standing water. The seed settles down on the soil and germinates when the soil comes back into condition.

Inoculation : Where berseem is proposed to be sown for the first time, farmers must use specially prepared cultures for inoculating the seed. Special culture for berseem, lucerne and other legumes can be obtained from this Institute. For using the inoculation prepare about 2 seers of 5% *gur* solution. Boil it a little to kill other bacteria. After cooling, soak the seed quantity required for one acre in this solution. Add the contents of the inoculum tin (which contains required bacteria sufficient for one acre) to this mixture and mix it thoroughly. Spread it under shade and allow it to get dry. Use this seed for sowing.

Failing this 2 to 3 maunds of soil from field, where berseem had been previously grown, should be broadcast in one acre of field intended for sowing berseem. It is to be remembered that it would not pay to grow berseem without inoculation.

Irrigation : When the crop is sown in September, the first 2-3 irrigations after sowing should be given at an interval of 4 to 5 days to establish the crop. But when sown at the normal time the first 2 to 3 irrigations should be given every 7-10 days depending upon the nature of the soil. The subsequent irrigations should be given at an interval of 15 days during winter and 10 days during summer.

Fodder : The early sown crop of berseem is usually ready for cutting by the end of November, while the normal crop is ready by the middle of December. The subsequent cuttings are usually taken regularly at an interval of 30 days or so. The yield is low in the

first cutting while the highest is obtained in the third and fourth cuttings. Six hundred to eight hundred maunds of green fodder is obtained in about five to seven cuttings. Under favourable soil conditions, adequate irrigation and judicious manuring of the crop yields as high as twelve hundred maunds can be obtained.

Feeding : Berseem fodder is soft, very palatable and rich in protein and generally does not cause bloating in animals fed on it except in the initial stages. As a rule, legumes being rich in protein content are liable to cause bloating in animals, the degree, however, differing with the type of legume. This effect is generally avoided if the quantity of legume fodder does not exceed about 30% of the total fodder fed to the animals and if hungry animals are not fed directly on it. Thus in the case of berseem, in the initial stages, the fodder should be mixed with three times its weight of *bhusa* and then fed. The proportion of berseem may be slowly raised so that in later stages the animals can be fully fed on it. However, in case of bloating a pound of linseed oil should be administered to the animal.

Berseem being rich in phosphate and calcium, improves the flow of milk of cows and buffaloes fed on this fodder.

Making of berseem hay : Excellent hay can be prepared from berseem which equals the clover hay of the temperate countries. At our Institute wire fencing has been very profitably utilized for hay making. The operation generally starts from the end of March. Berseem cut from the field is spread on the wire fence, is turned once or twice and within a week's time excellent hay results.

Alternatively the fodder may be spread on ground in a thin layer. The stuff should be turned once after a day or two before the hay gets brittle.

Seed production : Seed production of berseem is a paying proposition and in order to improve the receipts of the farm it would be desirable to keep a portion of the field for seed purposes. The crop, in this case, is not cut after the middle of March. Frequent irrigations are necessary during flowering and seed setting stages. Seed is generally ready by the end of May or the beginning of June when the crop should be harvested for seed purposes. The crop should be threshed as thoroughly as possible by bullocks. Unless thoroughly threshed there is always the possibility of losing a good deal of seed. Three to four maunds of seed per acre may be considered as a fairly good yield.

LUCERNE

If berseem is a high yielding annual fodder legume, lucerne is a perennial one with the same attributes. It is capable of producing successive cuttings of fodder for 5 to 7 years, once sown. It is fitly called the king of fodders in countries where cattle industry is very much advanced. Once established it is a continuous source of fodder supply throughout the year. The fodder is very much liked by the cattle, especially the horses.

Climate : Lucerne is well adapated to wide climatic variations. It gives best results in cooler climates with about 20-25 ins. rainfall. The crop is adversely affected by extremes of heat and cold in dry regions and heavy rains in humid tracts.

Soils : It can be grown on a variety of soils from sandy loam to clay. It grows best on well drained deep soils of good fertility. Waterlogged and highly alkaline areas should be avoided.

Preparatory tillage : Like berseem, the seed of lucerne is also very costly and since it is a perennial crop, extra care must be taken to see that a fine seed bed has been obtained.

Manuring : If lucerne has to be a paying crop, regular and heavy manuring must be considered a necessity. About 15 to 20 cartloads of well rotted farmyard manure should be applied per acre, at least six weeks before the sowing. This should be thoroughly mixed with the soil. Application of 2 to 3 maunds of ammonium phosphate every year as a top dressing would give profitable returns.

Seed rate : Seed rate generally varies with the method of sowing. Ten to twelve pounds of seed per acre would be required when sown by drilling or on ridges but 16-20 lb. would be required when broadcast.

Time and method of sowing : The best time of sowing lucerne is from the middle of October to the middle of November. Three methods are generally followed for sowing lucerne. The common method of sowing is by broadcasting of the seed in a moist seed-bed. The seed is also drilled in lines, one foot apart. These methods can best be followed on light soils. Sowing on ridges $1\frac{1}{2}'$-$2'$ apart have been recorded to give best results on heavy soils as in Bombay State. When sown on ridges, the seed is sown $\frac{1}{2}$--1 in. deep on the top of the ridge and the land is immediately irrigated taking care that the water does not overflow from the top of the ridges. This method involves less quantity of irrigation water. The crop can also be kept clear of weeds.

Inoculation : It is not only for berseem and lucerne that inoculation is necessary but this applies almost to all legumes. The use of inoculum has already been referred to in connection with berseem.

After care : When sown on ridges the first two or three irrigations should be given at an interval of 5 to 7 days. The subsequent irrigations may be given at intervals of 15 to 20 days during winter and 10 to 15 days during summer. The crop may be hoed from time to time for removing the weeds as also to open up the soil.

Fodder cutting : The first cutting is generally taken after $2\frac{1}{2}$—3 months of sowing. The yield in the first cutting is low. The subsequent cuttings can be taken at intervals of 5 to 6 weeks depending upon the fertility of the soil and irrigation. Six to eight cuttings can usually be obtained. The fodder is mostly obtained during winter but under Delhi conditions it gives a fair amount of fodder even during summer and to some extent even during monsoon, yielding 500 to 600 maunds of excellent green fodder per acre per year.

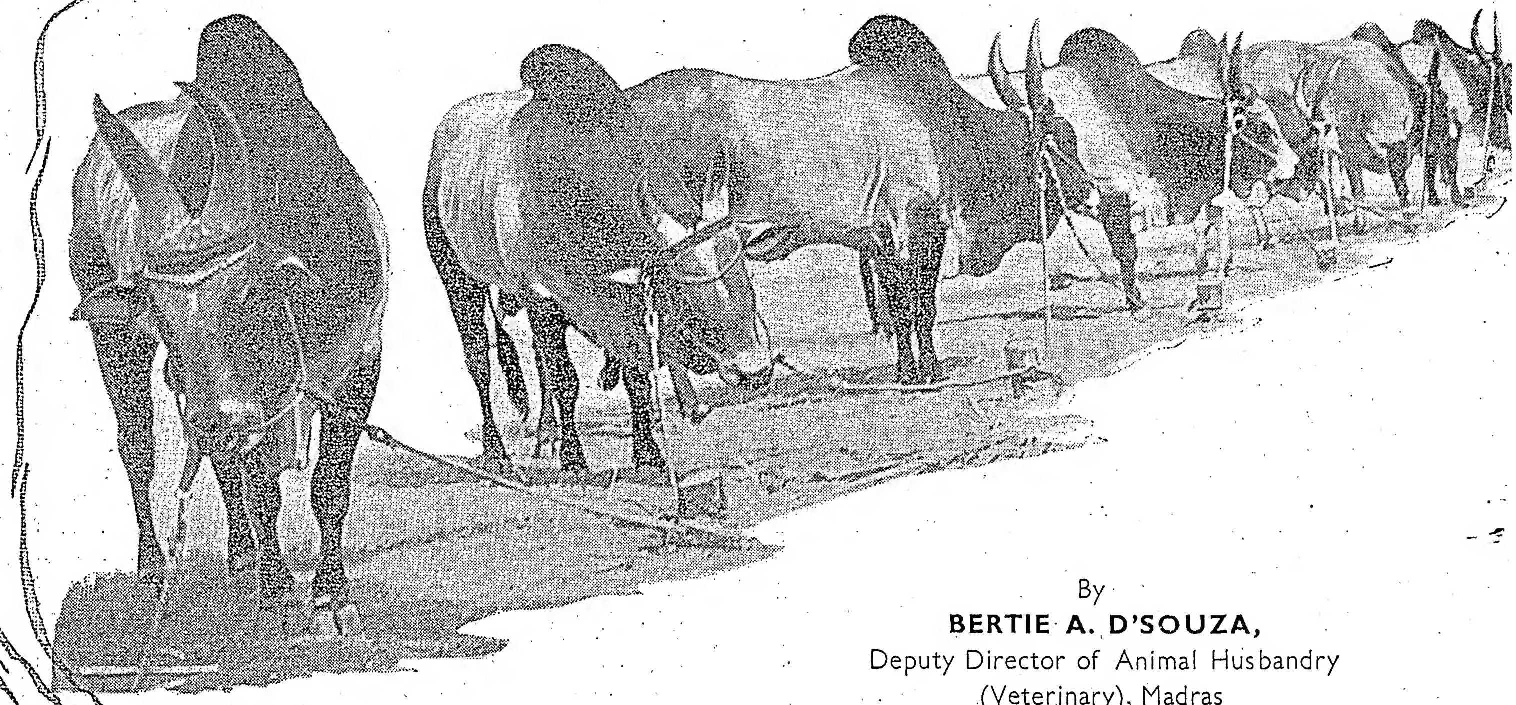
Feeding : The lucerne fodder is highly nutritious and palatable. It is specially favoured by horses. Because it causes bloating, lucerne, in some parts, is not recommended. This effect, discussed under berseem, is generally avoided if quantity does not exceed about 30% of the total fodder fed to the animals and if hungry animals are not fed directly on it. Further, if the fodder is cut at the flowering time and allowed to dry in the field for some time before it is fed to the animals the chances of bloating are much lessened.

Making of lucerne hay : It is advantageous to feed animals on lucerne hay as the bad effect of bloating is avoided to a very great extent.

Seed production : The seed production in lucerne is rather low. When required for seed, a portion of the field

(*Continued on page 30*)

CATTLE SHOWS IN MADRAS STATE



By
BERTIE A. D'SOUZA,
Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry
(Veterinary), Madras

In the sphere of development of livestock in Madras State, the Animal Husbandry Department has done a great deal to bring about improvement in the well recognized breeds of livestock. The schemes like the premium, the Government bull distribution and the District Board Schemes together with the departmental farms, one-day cattle shows, Taluk and district cattle shows have all gone a long way in making the farmer realize the importance of the proper maintenance of animal health.

No one will dispute the importance of the *ryots* in any scheme of livestock development. This is well appreciated by the Department and the cattle shows have served as a means to fostering among them the needed enthusiasm for livestock improvement which they have been lacking hitherto.

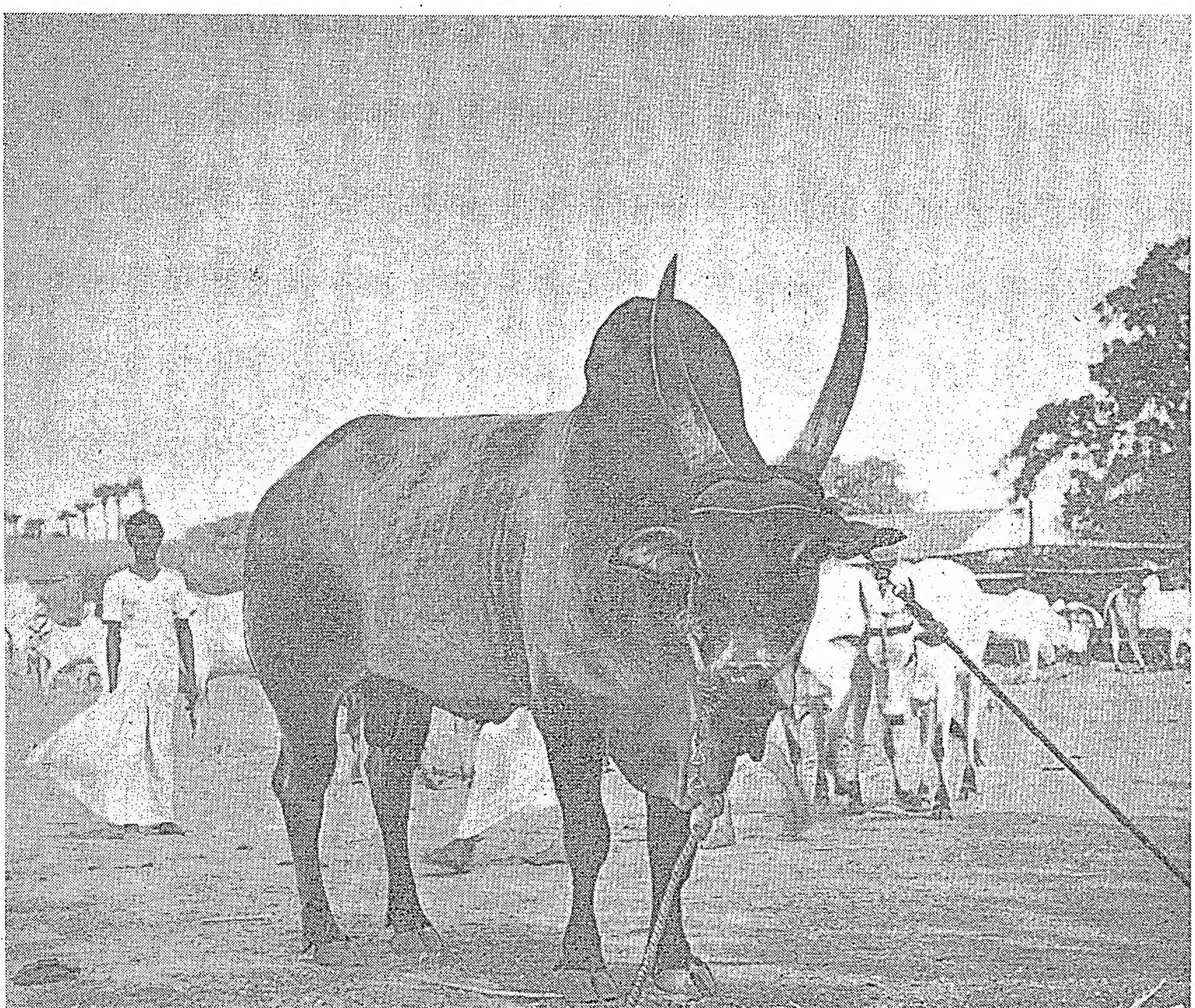
For the purpose of establishing and developing the well known breeds of cattle like Kangayam, Ongole and Hallikar, the State has been differentiated into zones, one for each breed, where the pure breeds are multiplied through selective breeding. Thereafter, the breeding operations are extended to the other zones. Similarly the sheep and poultry development in the rural and urban areas has also received adequate attention.

In the breed zones all help and encouragement is given to maintain pure breeding bulls. Stud bulls are released from the Government farms, for this purpose. They are also selected from private breeders and are maintained at suitable centres, care being taken to enforce continuity of breeding operations for a certain period. Over 1687 breeding bulls are at stud in the State at present and the impression these bulls make on the rural livestock is periodically assessed at the various cattle shows organized by the Department, which is a significant feature of the department in livestock development. The number of recognized breeding bulls available in the State is far less than its requirements. It is, however, anticipated that with the speedy establishment of a network of artificial insemination units in the State, the cattle breeding programme will gain in momentum.

These cattle shows contribute a great deal to the knowledge of the breeder regarding breeding of the right type of animals. The prize winning animals at these shows have undoubtedly served as a guide for the cattle breeders to attain that ideal. Pride of ownership has also helped eliminate bad features from the stock, and the comparative study at these shows has been an education in itself. As a result many diseases have been eliminated altogether. Over 15 contiguous southern districts of the State have been free from Rinderpest for the last five to eight years. Day by day these shows are gaining such importance that if they are not held after long intervals they shall be the best sale-display ground for high class cattle. The Tirupur cattle fair and show attracts a large number of good Kangayam cattle and, in effect, has come to stay as the best sale-display ground for this breed.

Sixty-two cattle shows were held during 1951-52. A sum of Rs. 200 for each show was given by the Department in the shape of prizes besides a large number of awards received as donations from the general public. Apart from these departmental shows, 15 private cattle shows were also held, to each of which the Department lent its support by granting a sum of Rs. 100 in prizes. These private shows are of recent origin and augur well for the cattle breeding industry of the State. (H.K.S.).

The best Kangayam bull at the Tirupur Show



BONE-MEAL AND ITS MANUFACTURE

By **G. R. VALUNJKAR,**
Bone-Meal Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Food & Agriculture,
New Delhi

PHOSPHATES are of vital importance to the animals and plants. Animals receive their supply of phosphates from the plants which they in turn have absorbed from the soil. Some of the intake of phosphates by the animals finds its way out of their bodies through solid and liquid excretions, while a part of it is retained by them for bone formation. In the absence of the discovery of appreciable quantities of rock phosphates in the country, bones are the only indigenous source of phosphates for the Indian soils. In order, therefore, that the life processes in plants be carried on unhampered and the animals should get their regular supply of phosphates from them the bones of the dead animals should be returned to the soil.

Phosphates in their natural condition are not water soluble and, therefore, the plants cannot absorb them. However, when treated with acids, they become soluble. In recent years, superphosphates have been produced in factories by treating natural phosphates with strong acids. But, the soils which are by nature acidic respond better to the application of raw phosphates than superphosphates. When applied to the soil they enable the plants, especially those with fibrous roots, to develop a more extensive root system.

BONE-MEAL

From the commercial standpoint, bones are classed as fresh and sun-dried or weathered bones. Fresh bones are rich in organic substances such as tallow, glue, gelatine, etc. while sun-dried bones abound in rich inorganic substances like calcium phosphate which is the main source of phosphatic manure.

The fresh bones from the slaughter houses are chopped for the extraction of crude tallow which is later refined for use in the soap and textile industries. The degreased bones from the tallow extractors are next treated with hot water and steam to separate bone glue. The material remaining after removal of the glue is in a fit condition for the manufacture of bone-meal. The bones from the extractors are ground to a fine powder, to give the so called 'steamed bone-meal'. This product is a valuable fertilizer although its action is slower than superphosphate. This is due to the fact that the combined phosphoric acid in steamed bone-meal is not in a water soluble form for quick action as in superphosphate, but is only gradually available to plants according to the acidic conditions present in the soil.

SUPERPHOSPHATE

Instead of manufacturing bone-meal, which is a slow acting fertilizer, degreased bones can be converted into rapid acting superphosphate by treating them with sulphuric or any other acid. This is done in mechanical mixers of which quite a few have been successfully operated. The quantity of ground bones, the quantity of acid of a particular strength and the period of mixing have all been standardized with a view to obtaining a superphosphate of uniform grade, viz. about 20-21 per cent of water soluble P_2O_5. A single mixer of the Steadman type will produce daily about 15 tons of superphosphate. Superphosphate of similar quality can also be prepared commercially in factories by utilizing the dried bones available in markets.

DOUBLE AND TRIPLE SUPERPHOSPHATE

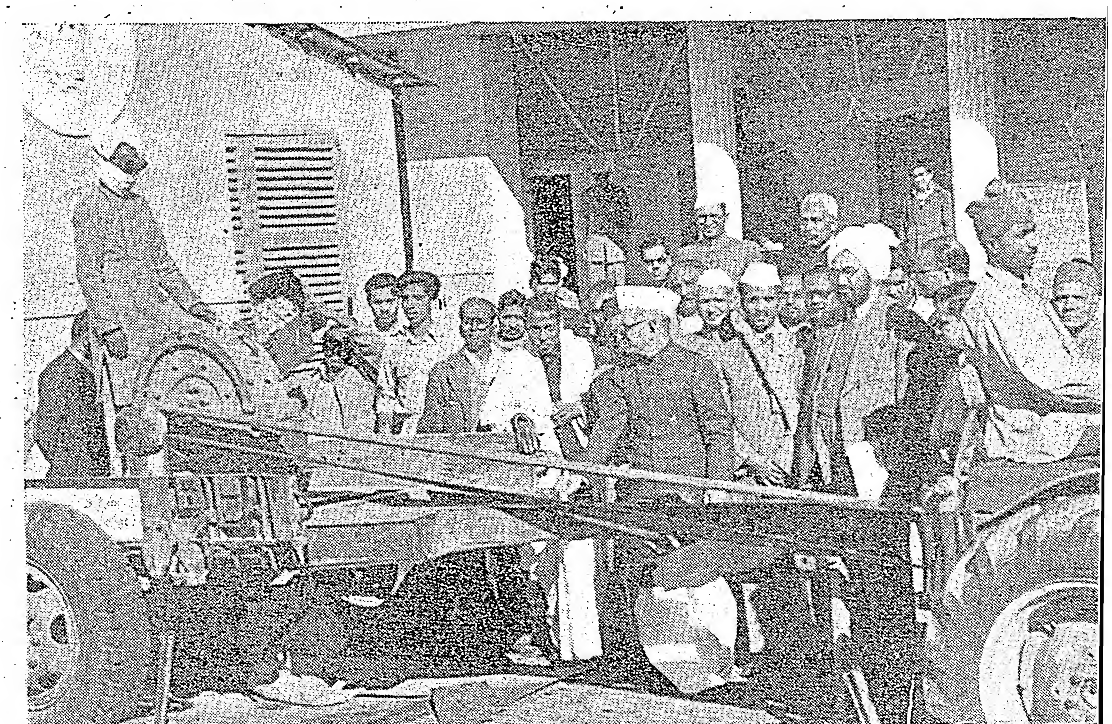
Superphosphates containing more than 30 per cent soluble P_2O_5 are commercially known as double and triple superphosphates. In order to produce this type of compound, it is necessary to first prepare crude phosphoric acid by the action of sulphuric acid on bones and then to treat the acid so obtained with a calculated amount of bone phosphate. The compound thus obtained is a concentrated fertilizer and, therefore, fetches a much higher price than ordinary superphosphate.

RAW MATERIAL

The total potential production of raw bones as worked out from the mortality of cattle and other animals, slaughter house figures and other sources works at about 4-5 lakh tons per year. Although it may not be possible to collect all these bones still, if the collection is organized on proper lines, it may be possible to procure something like 3 lakh tons of bones per year. The yearly collection so far has not gone beyond 1½ lakh tons in any year. The reason is that it does not pay to collect bones from places more than 50 miles away from a railway station on account of increasing transport charges. The bones in the interior of the country thus lie uncollected. If the efficiency of the bone-meal manure is made known to the agriculturists through propaganda and demonstration, the consumption of bone-meal would get a stimulus and the factories in the interior will have a ready local market. This local production and consumption will save transport charges, eliminate intermediate agencies and turn out cheaper bone-meal without harming the interests of the primary bone collector. If through local demand small economic units are established each within a radius of say 30 to 40 miles, the collection would increase sufficiently.

BONE CRUSHING

The present bone industry in India is limited to bone crushing only. Bones are crushed by mechanical means and bone grist is exported to other countries after retaining about 25 per cent to meet internal manurial requirements. As these crushers are interested in the export trade only, they find it convenient to establish their factories near the ports. The bone crushing factories that consume about 75 per cent of the present bone collection in the country are, therefore, situated in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Jamnagar, etc., the highest concentration being at Calcutta. As such they do not find it economical to get the available bones collected from the interior. It is, therefore, advisable either to decentralize the industry and encourage the establishment of small power crushing units of the crushing capacity of say 500 tons per year or get the bone-meal prepared on village industry basis without the use of mechanical power. The latter experiment was tried by the Madhya Pradesh Government under the supervision of the writer for two years in 1938-40 but the response at that time was negligible. The reason might have been that the margin of profit from a hand pounding small unit was not sufficiently attractive to new entrants in the line. When the question was again taken up by the Madhya Pradesh Government in 1946, the writer suggested the encouragement of small power crushing units which might ensure to the new entrant a net income of about Rs. 5,000 per year. This time the response was encouraging. There are at present some four bone crushing factories working in the State with



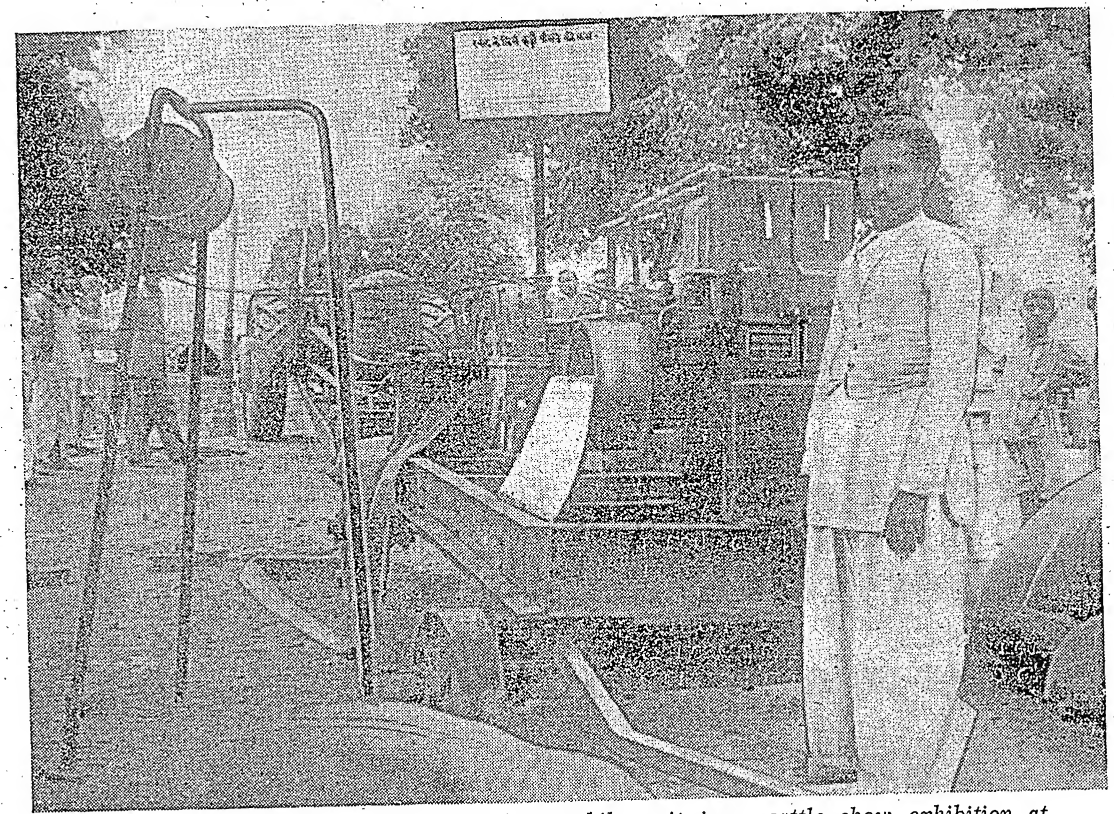
A demonstration of the working of a new mobile plant for crushing bones, manufactured in India

a total crushing capacity of about 10,000 tons per year, while there was none in 1938-39. This has opened up a new avenue of work for men of limited means and many people are coming forward to take to this industry. Sufficient encouragement and protection from the Government is, however, still needed. The response from other States during the last three years has also been encouraging.

METHODS OF BONE-MEAL PREPARATION

Use of a disintegrator : For a small unit of about 500 tons crushing capacity a 22—30 in. size disintegrator worked by an oil engine or electric motor of 15-25

The cooking method : The method of cooking the bones in a digester was demonstrated by Baba Chetandas at Pusa. The bones when cooked become soft and can be easily crushed without the use of any mechanical power. A digester of the required size to cook the bones and a village *dhenki* to pound them after cooking is all what is required. Indian made disgesters of this type are not available at present. The imported ones of about one hundredweight capacity may cost nearly a thousand rupees each. The crushing charges according to this method would come to about Rs. 100 per ton inclusive of other incidental charges.



The first experimental working of a mobile unit in a cattle show exhibition at Lucknow during February, 1950

horse power can be used. Fairly good disintegrators of these types are now being manufactured in India and the low horse power oil engines or electric motors of Indian make are also available. The total expenditure on land, sheds and the plant should not exceed Rs. 15,000 after allowing for a small working capital for the purchase of raw material, etc. The crushing charges of such a unit will come to Rs. 30-35 per ton if all the bones were crushed into bone-meal, and not 75 per cent bone grist and only 25 per cent bone-meal, as is being done by the existing big factories.

The charring method : For taking up this work on village industry basis the charring process is recommended. This method was used at Wardha. No special kind of apparatus or plant except a village *dhenki* to pound the bones after charring is required. Charring is an inexpensive and simple job and can be done in an hour or so with waste straw or fallen dry leaves. The cost of crushing by this method would come to about Rs. 55 per ton including the pay of a manager at about Rs. 100 p.m.

Bones when charred or cooked lose weight and some nitrogen and we get only 70 per cent bone-meal with about half the nitrogen of the raw bones. These losses add to the cost of the finished product.

The mobile unit : An ordinary disintegrator of the desired size is mounted on a trailer which can be driven from village to village by a tractor of the required horse power, say, 25. The disintegrator can be worked by the same tractor to crush the bones. After crushing, the bone-meal necessary for the locality may be kept at the village depot and the surplus carried in the same trailor to the central depot for further disposal. Such a unit may cost about Rs. 10,000. It can crush about 500 tons in a year and the crushing charges according to the experiment carried out at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute worked out at Rs. 32-38 per ton for complete crushing of bones.

Bones crushed in raw condition do not lose any weight or nitrogen if these are perfectly clean. The loss due to uncleanliness or adulteration is a common factor in all the processes. (H.K.S.).

FIBRES from RAM-BAN (AGAVES)

A thick hedge of 'Ram-ban'

By

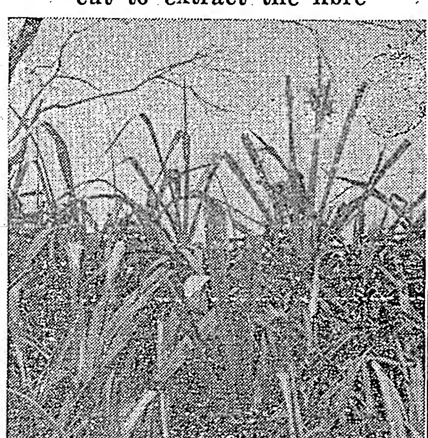
S. M. WAKANKAR,

Economic-Botanist to Madhya Bharat Government, Gwalior

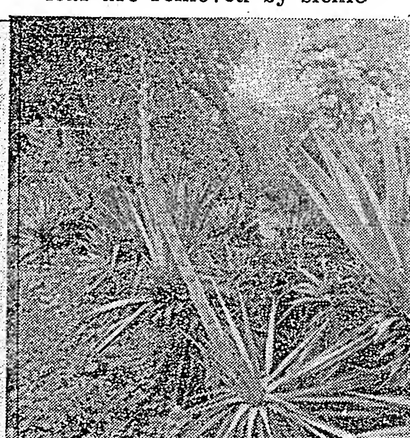
AGAVES commonly found as hedge plants around gardens and fields are known as 'ram-bans' in northern India. They are conspicuous by their thick fleshy long dark green leaves having a spiny tip and spiny margins. The growth of the plant is made all the more conspicuous by whorls of crowded leaves which make it a very useful hedge plant.

'Ram-bans' will grow on any soil under a wide range of rainfall ranging from 20 to 60 ins. The fibres are good on poorer soils with rainfall between 30-40 ins. On richer lands with heavier rainfall the leaves tend to become more fleshy which reduces the proportion of fibre. Its propagation is very simple. It is done by means of suckers and bulbils which are in fact small plants borne on the pole which is the flowering stalk. Poling occurs after 10-15 years only once in the life of the plant, after which the plant slowly dies. The suckers which are developments of the roots are produced after 3-4 years for nearly five years. The suckers and the bulbils can be planted directly in the rainy season in the fields or on the borders of gardens and fields.

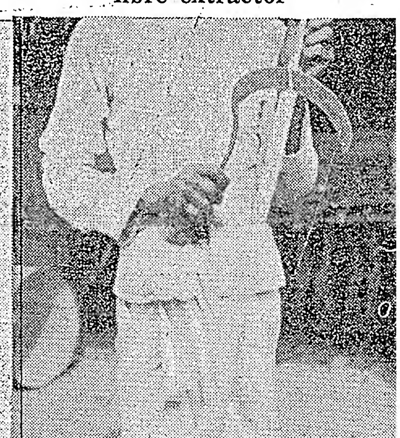
Poling. Note the bulbils on the top of the pole. From the adjoining plants leaves have been cut to extract the fibre



First the tip is cut and then the spines along the margins of the leaf are removed by sickle



Fibres are extracted by the fibre-extractor



They grow exceptionally well if planted on embankments or raised ridges. Bulbils are commonly found during rainy season. Suckers and bulbils can be planted in nursery and later on can be removed for replanting.

It is as a hedge plant that 'ram-bans' can mainly be recommended in northern India. It makes a very efficient hedge plant and its strong spiny leaves are a strong barrier against cattle trespassing.

The leaves of 'ram-bans' at present are mainly used for tying sheaves of harvested wheat and gram. They can more profitably be utilized for extracting fibre by the cultivator in his hours of leisure and to put some extra money in his pockets as also to supply the much needed cordage and ropes in his day to day agricultural work.

The leaves can be cut for extracting fibre 4-5 years after planting. About 20-25 leaves can be cut during the rainy season when the cultivator is free from his field work. There are two methods of fibre extraction, viz. dry and wet. It is the dry method which is simple and is being described for the benefit of small cultivators.

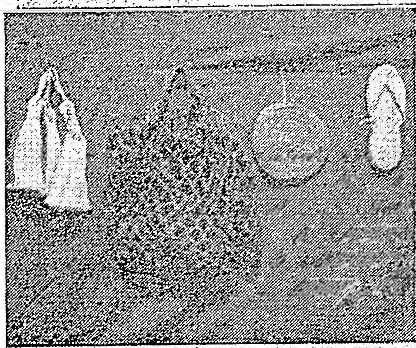
The dry method is mechanical. The man who extracts fibre should smear both his hands with oil as the sap irritates the skin. First the tip of the leaf which has a spine is cut with a sickle and later both the margins are 'cleared off' of the spines. The leaf is then divided lengthwise into 4-5 strips one end of which is fixed in a clamp about $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high. This allows the worker to extract fibres in a convenient standing position. The soft tissue is removed by means of a fibre extractor. It is a pair of tongs which is just like the simple nail puller but with broad $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide serrated clasping edges which separate fibre from the adhering soft mealy tissue. The fibres can be dried directly in the sun and if they are not free from the adhering matter can be washed in water before drying.

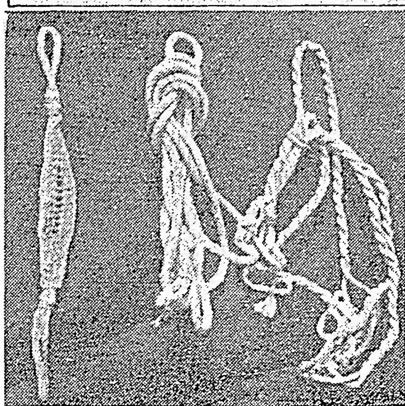
The length of the fibre is usually 2-3 ft. depending on the length of the leaf. Tender leaves should not be used as the fibre will be weak and percentage of extraction low. Similarly, old cracked leaves should be avoided for they yield short coarse fibre. The percentage of extraction of dry fibre by the above dry method is 4% of the fresh weight of the leaf. The fibre is shining white when extracted by the method described above.

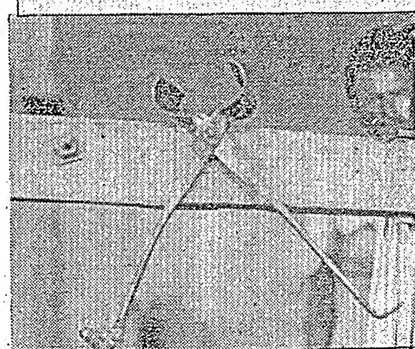
The fibres after drying are twisted into thin strings by a wooden country spindle locally known as 'dhera'. The thin strings are then twisted into ropes of varying thickness. Ropes made from 'ram-ban' fibres are stronger than coir, cotton and *ambadi*.* They last long and are useful for all agricultural purposes like head ropes for bullocks, tying plough parts, use in bullock carts and water lifting appliances.

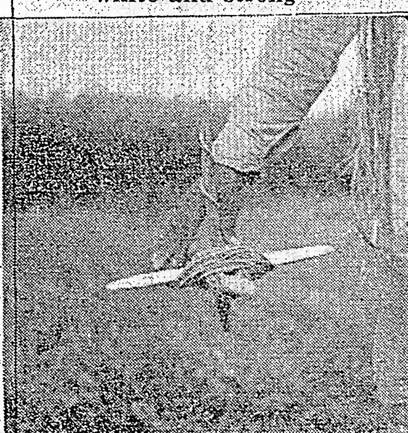
'Ram-ban' fibres take excellent bright colours. They dye well. They can be used for preparing door mats, bags and sandles in addition to the usual cordage.

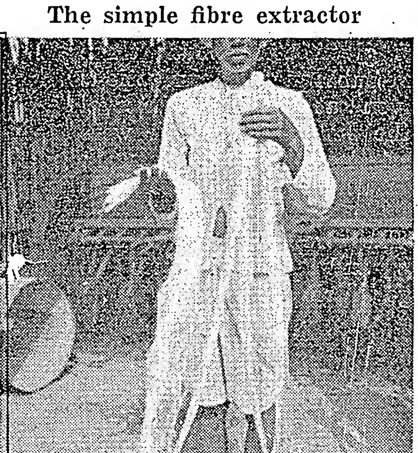
* 'Ambadi' or 'Pat-San' is *Hibiscus canhabinus*.


Brushes, handbag, 'niwar' and sandle made from the fibre


Ropes and the neck band for yoking the bullocks


The local 'dhera'. Fibres are spun into thin string

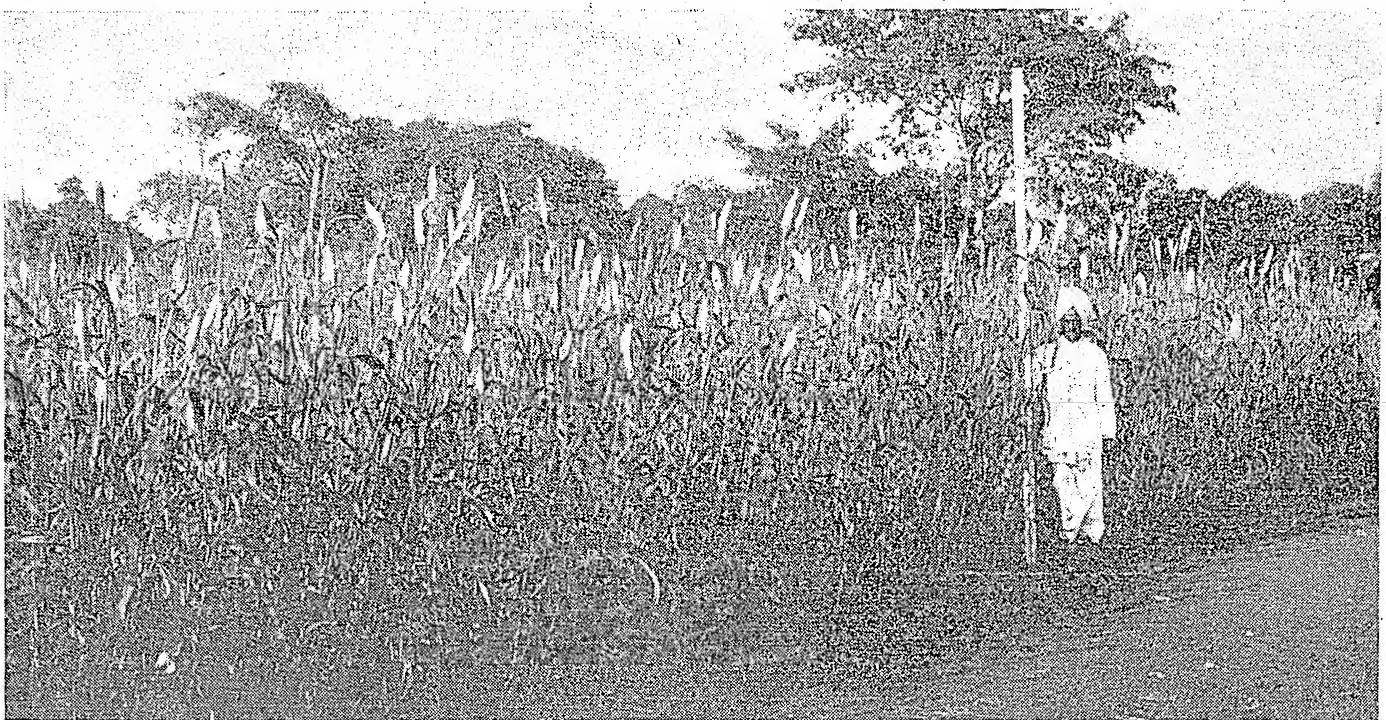
The fibres are neat, shining, white and strong


The simple fibre extractor


Leaves and the fibres


HOT WEATHER BAJRI

By H. M. DESAI



IN the Kaira district the hot weather Bajri crop is usually grown to an extent of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakh acres which rise to about 3 lakh acres in a scarcity year. Usually the hot weather crop is grown along with Sudhia fodder Jowar crop, either on wells or lift irrigation on river beds. The area under these crops has risen in recent years after the advent of oil engines and pumps which are about 3000 in the Kaira district of which about 80% are in the Charotar tract alone. The Charotar tract comprises roughly of Anand, Borsad, Petlad and part of Nadiad Taluka of the Kaira district.

Some of the pump owners are cultivating their farms themselves, and being enterprising and progressive farmers, experiment themselves to obtain the maximum production by daring trials. Results of trials of the most of such farmers go unnoticed and with the wane of enthusiasm or due to change in cropping in the next year the continuity of the trial is lost. We have no organized leadership in a village to bring the results of such trials to notice of the other farmers through the agricultural department or the press or by some other means. Our local press in original is indifferent to earth out such information and publish as news. Whenever such information comes to the notice of the district staff of the Agricultural Department they hold a demonstration to bring the results to the notice of other farmers round about and the matter rests there.

A fine example of such an enterprise has come to our notice through the good office of the District Agricultural Officer, Kaira district, Nadiad, which is recorded here for the general information of the farmers.

Mr. Girdharbhai Motibhai Patel of Keriavi of the Nadiad Taluka who is a big landlord himself, cultivates about 75 *bighas* of land under the pump irrigation. This year in the hot season he laid out a trial of his own in one acre of area to get the maximum yield of summer Bajri. As a result of trial he obtained 133 maunds of Bajri grain, i.e. 5320 lb. and 2700 bundles of fodder from one acre. This is really a very good yield and roughly can be taken as 3 to 4 times of ordinary hot weather Bajri yield and about 6 to 7 times the good Bajri yield in the monsoon season. The treatment of the crop was as under :—

(*a*) Preparatory tillage

The previous crop was Kodra mixture which was not manured. The land was manured at the rate of 100 cartloads of F.Y.M. in the cold weather and was ploughed 5 times with a country plough to thoroughly mix the manure.

(*b*) Sowing

Land was irrigated prior to sowing, which was done on Maha Sud 15, i.e. the 10th February, 1952, at 18 ins. apart both ways after marking. At each place about 4 to 6 seeds of local variety of Bajri were dibbled which were thinned to about 2 to 3 plants at a dibble after germination. The seed rate used was about 4 lb. per acre. After dibbling, the land was laid into long beds ($60' \times 12'$) for facilitating irrigation.

Germination was complete in about a week's time.

(*c*) After-care

After germination the first irrigation was given after about three weeks. Subsequent irrigations were given at 8 days' interval except the last three, which were given at 4 days' interval. A week before harvesting the irrigation was stopped. In all 14 irrigations were given. The crop was intertilled 4 times and planked once to encourage tillering.

(*d*) Growth

Plants were about 8 feet in height and put forth on an average about 25 tillers per dibble while 80 to 100 tillers at places were not uncommon. It may be specially noted that tiller heads were very poorly filled and many of those were empty. Central short heads were about 9 ins. in length and well filled in. No pest or disease was noticed.

(*e*) Harvesting

The crop was harvested by the middle of May (i.e. 3 to 3½ months after sowing) and yielded 133 maunds (40 lb. each) of grain and 2700 bundles. Grain and fodder quality of the crop was good.

In discussion the following facts emerged:

(*a*) The local variety, which is a monsoon variety and is sown in the hot weather also, is not a suitable variety for the latter season. A variety for hot weather is required to be evolved with tillering habit in which the tillers will fully develop and yield grains.

(*b*) The hot weather Bajri field should be manured in the preceding monsoon season so as to get the full advantage of the farmyard manure. If the hot weather crop is to be manured it should be with a mixture of both oilcake and ammonium sulphate as a top dressing. A dressing with the superphosphate manure at the sowing time also required to be tried out.

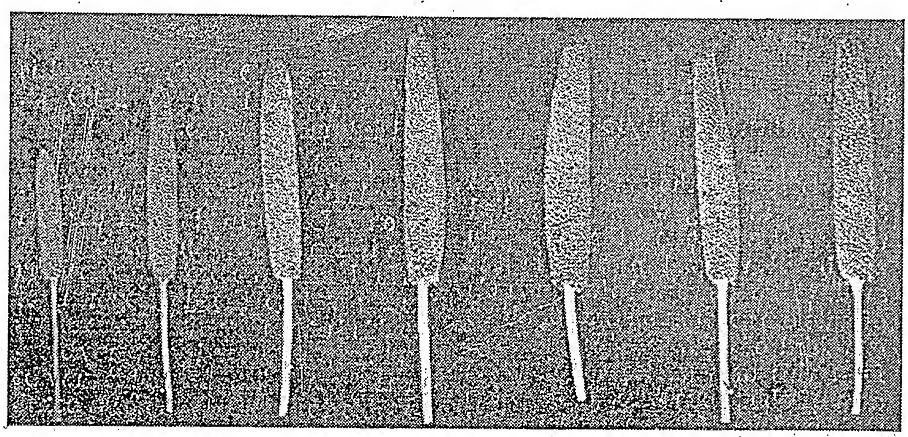
(*c*) More seeds per dibble should be sown to enable more plants to be kept per hill or a dibble. This would help to obtain more fruitful heads per hill. If possible, tillers should be removed to give chance for the main shot to develop fully.

(*d*) In irrigation intervals also some modifications seem necessary in fixing intervals suitable for the various stages of the plant growth.

Mr. Girdharbhai Patel is contemplating to effect suitable modifications in view of this year's experience so as to obtain still better results by judiciously utilizing the resources to the best of his ability and knowledge. It is suggested that if the progressive farmers who try out such methods pull their experience together better results could be obtained in a short time without frittering away the resources of individuals in gaining the same experience.

Better still, if such trials are carried out on Government farms and institutions systematically on scientific lines. The experience of the farmers will help to lay out experiments on knowledge already gained.

Scientists like plant breeders can help by evolving the most suitable variety, and agronomist, in working out the suitable technique of raising the Bajri crop in the Kaira district in hot weather, specially by intensive cultivation methods.



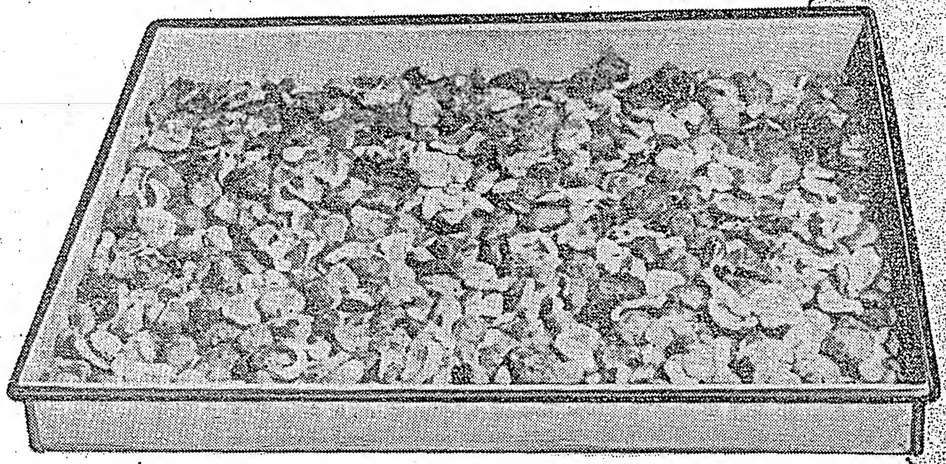
Bajri earheads

Shri Munshiji has given prominent place to intensive cultivation in his land transformation programme and, it is upto the scientist and Government farms and institutions to further this programme by placing at the disposal of farmers means, materials and practices that can give the optimum results under their conditions. Local press can help by advertising these results and pulling the experience of progressive farmers for the scientist, to improve upon, and develop these into workable practices. Only by such a cooperation the existing resources of the country can be put to the best advantage.

"SINGHARA"

(TRAPA BISPINOSA)

as a partial substitute for cereal



By

M. SWAMINATHAN and P. B. MATHUR,
Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore

IN view of the high nutritive value of the *Trapa* flour and the shortage of cereals in the country, it is desirable that some encouragement is given to the cultivation of *Trapa* and the utilization of *Trapa* nuts in various forms. For example, *Trapa* is not grown at all in the Mysore State although the number and area of ponds is greater in Mysore State than in most other States in the Indian Union. Since it is an aquatic plant, it does not clash with the cultivation of other crops.

Trapa nuts are eaten raw when tender and are usually boiled when they have become mature. Dried nuts are made into flour, which can be used as a substitute for wheat flour in the preparation of "chapaties" or "puries". With other ingredients, it can be made into various types of sweetmeats like Barfi, Laddu, etc.

HOW TO GROW "TRAPA"

The usual method of cultivation of *Trapa* is as follows: After the harvest of the *Trapa* crop in December, a portion of the tank with about 3 ft. of standing water is puddled under feet and selected mature nuts are broadcast and pressed in the mud. Two to two and a half maunds of nuts are sown in an area of about one-third of an acre. The cuttings from this area suffice to plant an area of about one acre. About the middle of April the vines are plucked from the nursery, cuttings made and planted in an area of about one acre. Four to six cuttings are tied in a bunch and each bunch is used as a unit in transplantation. Flowering takes place in August and fruiting in October. Harvesting is done in November and December. Yield is approximately 1,600 to 2,000 lb. of dried nuts per acre.

STORAGE

Seeds for planting can be preserved only for 10-15 days in earthen pots if kept soaked in water.

Nut kernels are prone to attack by insects and to the development of moulds unless special precautions are taken. Proper drying may overcome these difficulties and it may be possible to store them for a considerable time without any deterioration. Fumigation with methyl bromide may also prove effective.

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF "TRAPA" FLOUR

The overall nutritive value of *Trapa* flour was compared with that of rice and other cereals by the rat growth method. Groups of freshly-weaned albino rats (six in each group and distributed equally with regard to sex and litter mates) were fed with similar diets in which *Trapa* flour, rice, *cholam*, wheat and *ragi* were the main ingredients. The composition of the diets was as follows:

Trapa flour or cereals—78.5 %.
Tor dal (*Cajanus indicus*)—5.0 %.
Groundnut oil—5.0 %.
Non-leafy vegetables—8.2 %.
Leafy vegetables—2.1 %.
Milk powder—0.9 %.
Common salt—0.3 %.

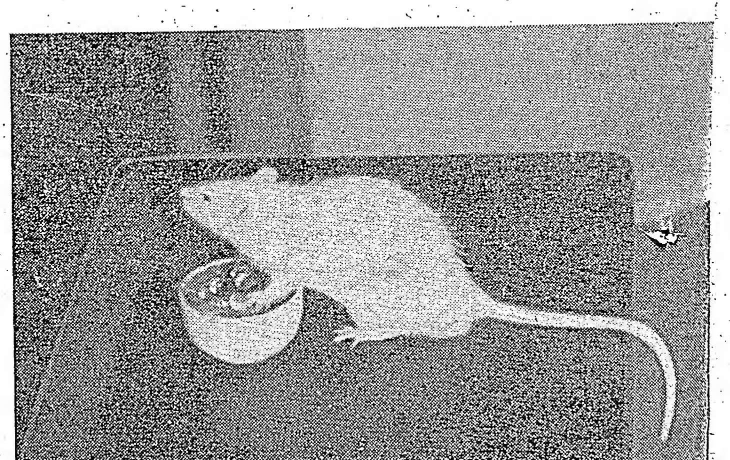
The average weekly increases registered in the body weights of the rats in the various groups are given below:

Main ingredients in the diet	Average weekly growth rate
Trapa flour ..	5.9
Rice, raw milled	3.7
Cholam (*Sorghum vulgare*) ..	4.9
Wheat, whole ..	6.6
Ragi (*Fleusine coracana*) ..	7.9

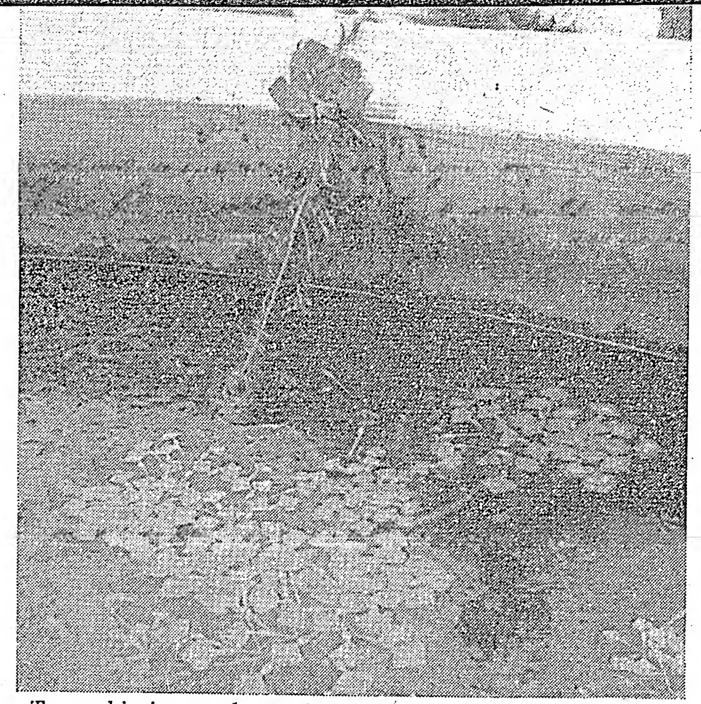
The values for average weekly growth rates of rats show that *Trapa* flour is definitely superior to rice in its overall nutritive value.

CONCLUSION

Although *Trapa* is extensively grown in Kashmir and used more or less as a staple food by a large section of the people, its use in States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay is to a very limited extent. Further, in the Mysore State it is not grown at all. In view of its high nutritive value, the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, is engaged on an experiment to introduce *Trapa bispinosa* first in the city of Mysore and subsequently, with the help of the Mysore Agricultural Department, in the whole of the Mysore State.



One of the albino rats fed on a diet containing "Trapa" flour



Trapa bispinosa *plants growing in a water tank in the grounds of the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore. The pulled out plant shows the young, immature nuts*

Village level workers learning group discussion techniques in Burdwan, West Bengal

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR A VILLAGE WORKER

outline of a typical extension programme

By **DEVENDAR M. ANAND** and **MALCOLM ORCHARD**

AGRICULTURAL extension service in India is concerned with the important problems of rural living and agricultural production.

It is nothing more than a programme of education and information and its philosophy is practical and simple; helping rural people to learn to help themselves; getting them to "learn by doing".

The outline of a typical extension programme in an Indian village can perhaps best be divided into two heads:

I. PRELIMINARY WORK

(*a*) *Establishing contacts:* The extension programme being an intensely practical one, almost everything will depend on the approach that is made to the villagers. The success or the failure of the programme will depend largely upon the thoroughness and tact with which this work is done. Personal interviews with the members of the families, visits to the sick and needy and full and friendly participation in the social and religious functions and ceremonies of the villagers, will help a village level worker to win the confidence and gain the friendship of the people among whom he is working. Rural workers should live right in the midst of the villages in which they seek to serve and make an attempt to understand the mental processes of ordinary villagers.

(*b*) *Promoting group discussions:* Once a village level worker has established friendly contacts with the villagers he will be in a position to promote group discussions of village problems. He will be able to help the village people learn to recognize problems which are most urgent and also learn the value of an organized approach to those village problems which cannot be solved by an individual farmer through his unaided efforts. Once he is able to demonstrate the valuable results which can be achieved through cooperative discussion and cooperative efforts, his task will be comparatively easy. He will then be able to induce the villagers to determine a priority list of the specific problems requiring solution in the village. As a practical step a village level worker may perhaps find it advisable to promote the organization of some form of village association in which a representative of almost every family in the village could be persuaded to become a member.

(*c*) *Leadership development:* Once such an association has been put on a working basis the main aim of a village level worker should be to induce the villagers to assume responsibility for group action. Assuming this responsibility is an elementary leadership activity; discharging this responsibility is the demonstration of real leadership.

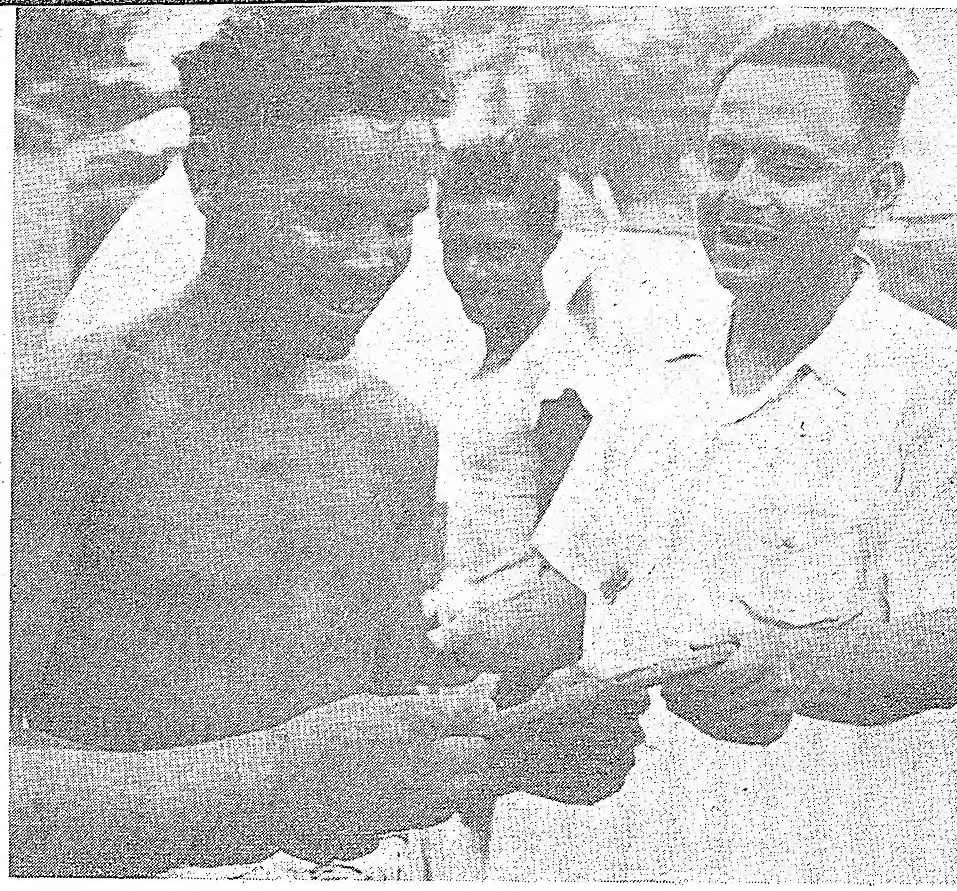
How are the villagers to be trained to assume responsibility for group action? In order that leadership may develop, a village level worker must be satisfied to allow others to assume important responsibilities and he must feel happy at seeing others receive credit for work which he himself could have done. Experience has shown that the most

difficult job in developing leadership is breaking down the first resistance to responsibility. Once this first resistance is removed, local people with leadership abilities will spring up surprisingly fast.

How is resistance to leadership responsibilities broken? There are many answers to this question; but in general the village worker must seek problems for village solution which groups in the village are genuinely interested in solving.

The first efforts will be slow. But as soon as some of the members of the community discover that they can act as leaders, subsequent activities will prove to be much easier. The extension worker never issues orders, but offers suggestions and encouragement. When the leaders and villagers discover the satisfaction of achievement, they will be ready to tackle bigger problems. In short, every activity in which the village level worker participates must be dominated by the action of village leaders.

(d) *Village surveys:* After the village worker has succeeded in establishing contacts and inducing villagers to set up a village association he should try to pursuade the active members of the association to undertake the preparation of a village survey. These surveys should try to collect general information about the village, vital statistics, facts and figures relating to health and sanitation, the facilities for educating available in the village, facts and figures about the various crops and the livestock kept, the acreage under various crops and the production per acre, the acreage in wasteland, forest and grassland, etc., the number of acres in roads, buildings, borders, bunds, etc., particulars regarding the cottage industries in the area, the income and expenditure of each family, their poverty and indebtedness, the rates of interest prevailing in the village and any other matter of importance that is likely to help rural work. Such village surveys, if properly conducted, have two great advantages. Firstly, they enable rural workers to intelligently understand the difficulties and disadvantages under which the villagers are labouring, and secondly, village surveys enable rural workers to correctly gauge the amount of progress made in each village within a given period.



The first job is to establish contacts

In order that leadership may be developed

To organize youth clubs

(*e*) *Work with villagers:* Ultimately the aim of the village worker should be to organize youth clubs and young farmers' leagues in his area which would provide an opportunity to the village youth to engage in organized group activities aimed at improving rural life. These activities will also enable village youth to acquire useful information and become skilful in things which would be useful to them as future farmers and home makers. They will also help to foster pride in village life and develop confidence in our farmers of tomorrow.

II. MAKING IMPROVEMENTS

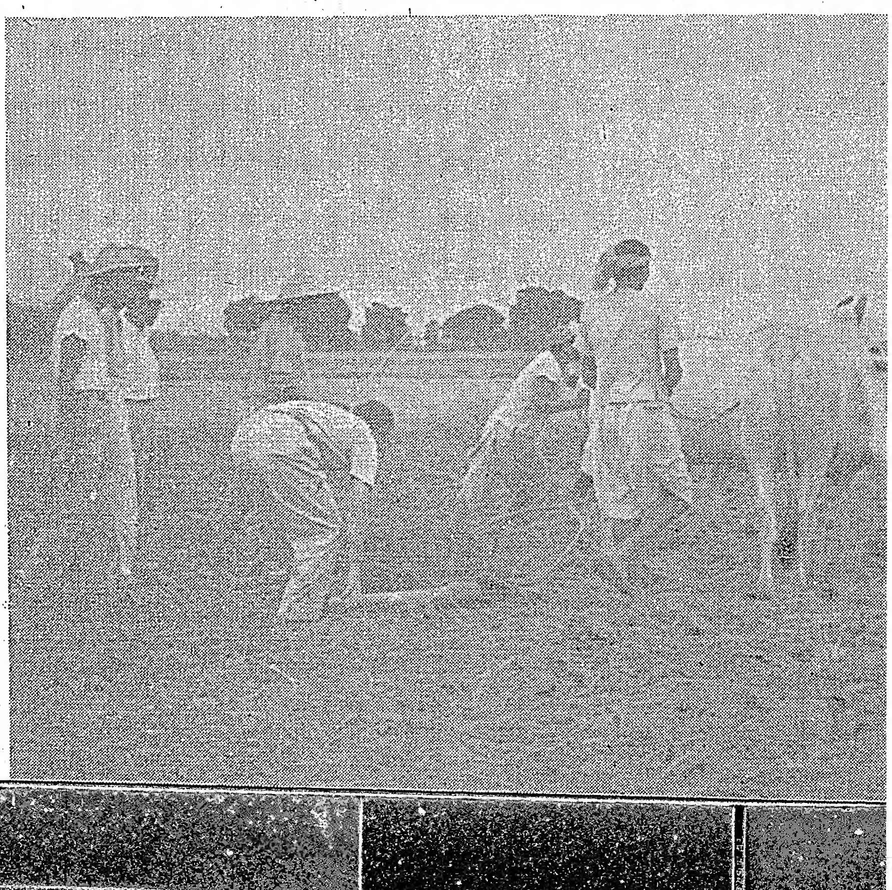
(*a*) *Applying findings of research:* It is a well known fact that the average income of an Indian farmer is extremely low. Although agriculture in our country dates far back the methods of cultivation practised in our villages today have not advanced much past the primitive stage and the implements used are invariably crude. The results of research have not reached the man in the village. One of the aims of the extension service will be to help the farm people to utilize new and better ways of farming which have been proven by research conducted in our scientific institutions. Through all the media of publicity, such as the printed page, films, slides, group meetings, demonstrations and individual advice, the extension service will try to achieve this object.

(*b*) *Demonstration:* The basis for getting farmers to adopt improved farm practices is found in the demonstration of these practices. The village level worker must realize early that every recommendation that is made for the solution of a village problem must be a recommendation that can be demonstrated. If the improved practices cannot be successfully demonstrated they should not be recommended.

(*c*) *First stage suggestion:* The following are some of the agricultural improvements which a village worker should try to get the villagers to adopt in the very beginning. The list is general and by no means exhaustive and is only meant for guidance. The underlying idea in the preparation of this list is that the village worker should in the first instance confine his attention to improved ways for doing things which are already being done in the village. The introduction of new enterprises and radically new ideas should be left to the second stage of the work.

(1) *Using improved seed:* Most farmers use seed that will not produce as much as new seed recently developed by breeding research on experimental farms. Better varieties are available through agricultural officers in your district. As villagers are most reluctant to plant new varieties in place of their old varieties, it becomes essential in the initial stages to demonstrate the superiority of the improved seed. These demonstrations should be conducted on farms of leading villagers, and should be conducted in such a manner that it will be easy for every villager to see the increased production the improved seed provides. It is recommended that the new seed be planted in plots alongside of the old seed and that both plots be treated in exactly the same manner so that the villagers can see that an honest demonstration has been conducted and will believe in the superiority of the improved seed if such superiority is demonstrated. Following the successful de-

West Bengal Point-4 Technician showing workers how to use an improved bullock scraper for moving dirt



monstration of an improved variety it should be easy to convince most of the other farmers that they should try this improved seed also.

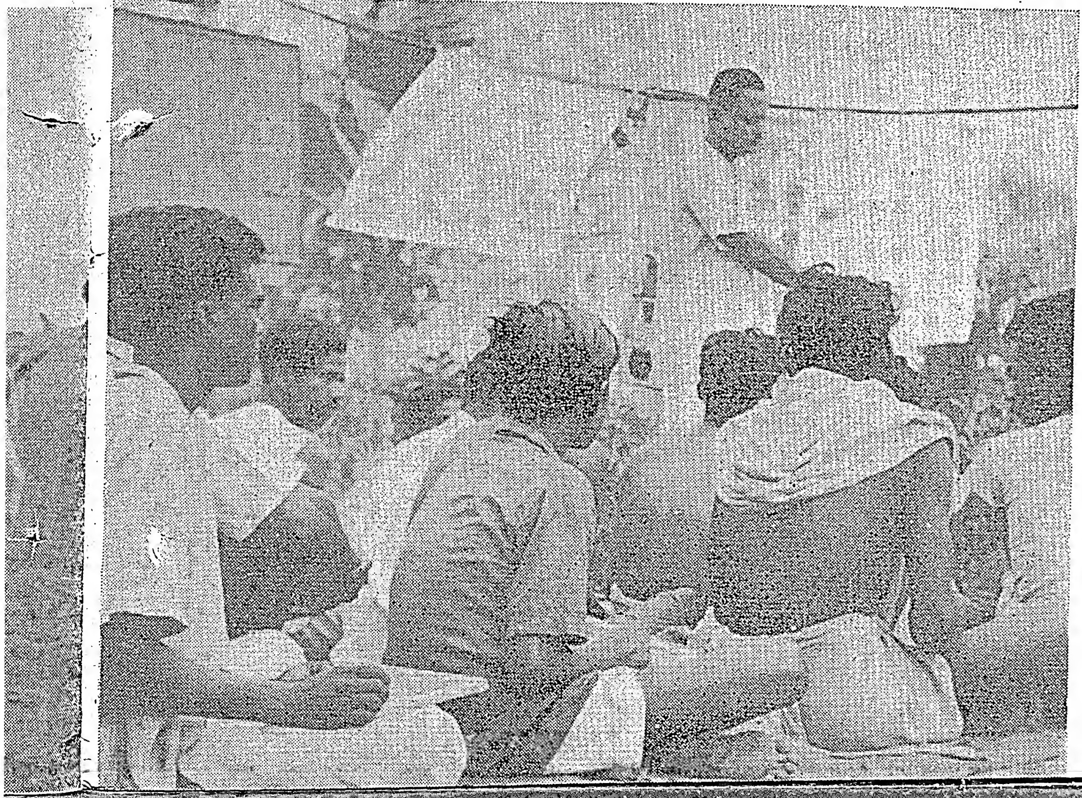
(2) *Increasing the use of manures and fertilizers:* This is another item of work which can be taken in hand immediately. All villagers are generally aware of the value of good manure. The rural worker should demonstrate to them the correct methods of preparing and preserving compost manure and show in demonstration plots the increased yields resulting from the proper use of this manure. In certain areas the village worker will be in a position to obtain supplies of artificial fertilizers. These artificial fertilizers should be recommended where their value has been demonstrated. In the same manner that improved seed are demonstrated, the use of artificial fertilizers should likewise be demonstrated. The village level worker should be cautioned, however, that artificial manures should not be tested on those lands which do not receive adequate water and are not well supplied with organic matter. Organic matter can be supplied through the turning in of manure or green manure crops.

Village workers learning use of movie projector

It is recommended that green manure crops be demonstrated as early as possible in the extension programme. Careful studies should be made beforehand to determine the proper crop, time of planting, and time of returning this crop to the soil; how it should be fertilized and when following crops should be planted. If this information is not available in your district, small research plots should be established designed to determine answers to green manuring questions. Successful demonstration of the value of green manure crops should result in one of the greatest contributions that a village level worker can make to the increase of production.

(3) *Improving cultural practices:* One of the simplest changes that a village level worker can induce villagers to adopt is a change in his method of planting and cultivating crops. This can be achieved through inexpensive demonstrations on small areas. Line planting, economical plowing and cultivating are examples.

Village level worker giving reading lessons



(4) *Improving livestock:* Improvement of livestock should be an important part of every village worker's programme. It is a well known fact that useless male animals are easily discarded and that it is more economical to maintain one good cow than two poor ones. The use of improved sires can be encouraged, or artificial insemination institutions can be patronized. Excessive livestock will retard the village level worker's programme of improvement and he should determine every proper means for establishing a more economical livestock management programme.

(5) *Controlling pests and diseases of crops and livestock:* This is another item of work which the village worker can demonstrate immediately and should take in hand early in the programme. There is

(*Continued on page 29*)

THE PROBLEM OF DISSEMINATING AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

By

HARKIRAT SINGH

NOTWITHSTANDING the great amount of agricultural research that has been successfully conducted by the Indian scientists, the farmer in the field still sticks to the old and traditional methods of farming. The results of such research have generally been available to the technical persons and those already initiated in scientific agriculture. But, paradoxically enough, in all programmes of agricultural information hitherto organised, the primary producer has invariably been neglected. Consequently, a wide gulf exists between the laboratories and the man behind the plough. Even if this information has been put across to the farmer, this has been done in a manner unacceptable to him. As a result, it has failed to evoke interest and spur him to adopt better technique as farmers in the more advanced countries have done. This in the main is the cause of our low farm production level.

In the context of the prevailing food shortage and with the spectre of famine constantly haunting us the need for increased agricultural production is apparent. Indian agriculture must be so improved that it may meet the nutritive requirements of the country's population. To achieve this, the farmer must be completely won over; his confidence should be gained through sympathetic understanding and he should be urged to rise to the occasion. The advantages of using the improved seed, the beneficial effects of adding manures and many such aspects of agricultural practice should be brought home to him. It matters little how much information has been conveyed to him but it counts a lot how much of it he has been able to assimilate and apply. The ideas presented to him should stir his imagination. In this way, the efforts of the scientists could successfully be harnessed to solve the country's basic problem of increasing food production.

Many problems, some of them appearing to be insoluable at first sight, would have to be faced in organising an effective programme of agricultural information service. The first problem to deal with is the general illiteracy of the masses. There is no denying the fact, that illiteracy in India is widely prevalent. Any method, if it is to be successfully employed for supplying the newly discovered facts to the farmers in an effective manner, should be so evolved as to suit the illiterate recipients. Again, the economic condition of the Indian peasant must be constantly kept in mind while organising such a programme. Only such information as could be practically implemented without enhancing the cost of production should be given out. Apart from these considerations, the small size of the farmers' holdings, the various systems of land tenure prevalent, etc. present peculiar problems. The task of organising an all embracing agricultural information programme is, therefore, a stupendous one.

Of late it has been increasingly realised that nothing short of a well-knit organisation could possibly handle the difficult problem of disseminating of agricultural information to the farmers. The Agricultural Information Conference sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research should be considered as a forerunner of the broad-based information organisation that is contemplated to be set up. Delegates from the various State departments actively engaged in agricultural publicity have been invited to attend this Conference. Care has been taken to blend the unofficial interests with the official ones so as to ensure an enduring foundation. Many private firms dealing in agricultural machinery, manures, fertilisers, etc. usually employ novel methods to popularise and market their products. Experience thus accumulated is intended to be fully exploited and made use of in evolving effective methods of agricultural publicity. An exhibition, designed to spotlight the media already used and the potential means of disseminating agricultural information, will also be held on this occasion. The value of the various methods would be carefully assessed by the many participating experts, and ways and means of securing better results would be devised.

Public opinion in the rural areas will also be mobilised for this purpose for it is the villages where such an organisation should ultimately have its ramifications. A network of organisations right from the Centre down to the villages dealing with agricultural publicity will be set up. A small central organisation will be formed at the top to supervise and coordinate the activities of its constituent parts. This central body would be a reservior of all information relating to agricultural progress and would act as a clearing house in respect of such information. This central agency would collect, sift and arrange information in a presentable manner and pass it on to the organisations at the State, District and Village levels for its ultimate transmission to the farmer through teachers, extension and social workers and others engaged in village uplift work. It would thus endeavour to canalise information to the farmer. Adequate facilities for translating this information into various regional languages will also be made available. This would ensure uniformity and accuracy, and the information emanating from this source would carry the hall mark of authority and genuineness. Needless to add that the farmer would accept it without much doubt and mental reservation.

As for the means and methods to be adopted by this organisation, it would mostly confine itself to conveying the required information to the farmers

through the medium of written pamphlets in different languages, newsletters, posters, talks, dramas, charts, films and other similar ways of disseminating information among the primary producers. Practical demonstration has been recognised as an effective means of bringing home to the farmer the new ideas in agriculture. The proposed organisation contemplates to leave this part of the work to the vast extension organisation that has been set up in the country with the inauguration of Community Project Areas. It would, however, fall on this informational organisation to keep the extension workers continually supplied with information on improved farm technique. This would, no doubt, serve a double purpose: Project Areas would serve as testing grounds for determining the efficacy of the means and methods employed by this organisation as also to reinforce and invigorate the extension movement.

Simplicity in presentation will be the foremost consideration for the sponsors of this organisation. Men with a flair for popular writing rather than men of letters would, therefore, be needed. Keeping in view the educational background of the recipient the information sought to be conveyed to the farmer will be couched in the simplest possible language. Due consideration will also be paid to the existing village conditions. Persons would also be needed to put out this information in humorous skits. Such information will also form the subject of interesting radio broadcasts specially directed to the listeners in the villages. Documentary films on selected subjects would be exhibited in the villages through mobile cinema vans. Newsletters carrying day-to-day information about the agricultural situation in the country and market news will be released for the benefit of the primary producer. Specially designed attractive posters and charts depicting ways and means of bringing about a change in the methods of farming and the advantages which would accrue to him by using better seed, better manures, etc. will be printed and pasted at places frequently visited by the villager so that he is impressed by what is sought to be conveyed to him. A change in his general outlook would then be expected to come about.

How far the proposed organisation is going to be a success is difficult to foresee. This will nevertheless depend on the amount of cooperation that will be extended to it by the various interests involved, the efficacy of the means and methods employed, the financial resources at the disposal of the organisation, the willigness of the farmer to accept this body as his own and many other factors that crop up when this huge workshop actually starts functioning. For the present, however, all eyes are hopefully turned towards Lucknow, the venue of the Conference to be held in the third week of November this year.

NEW POTATOES FOR OLD

(*Continued from page 6*)

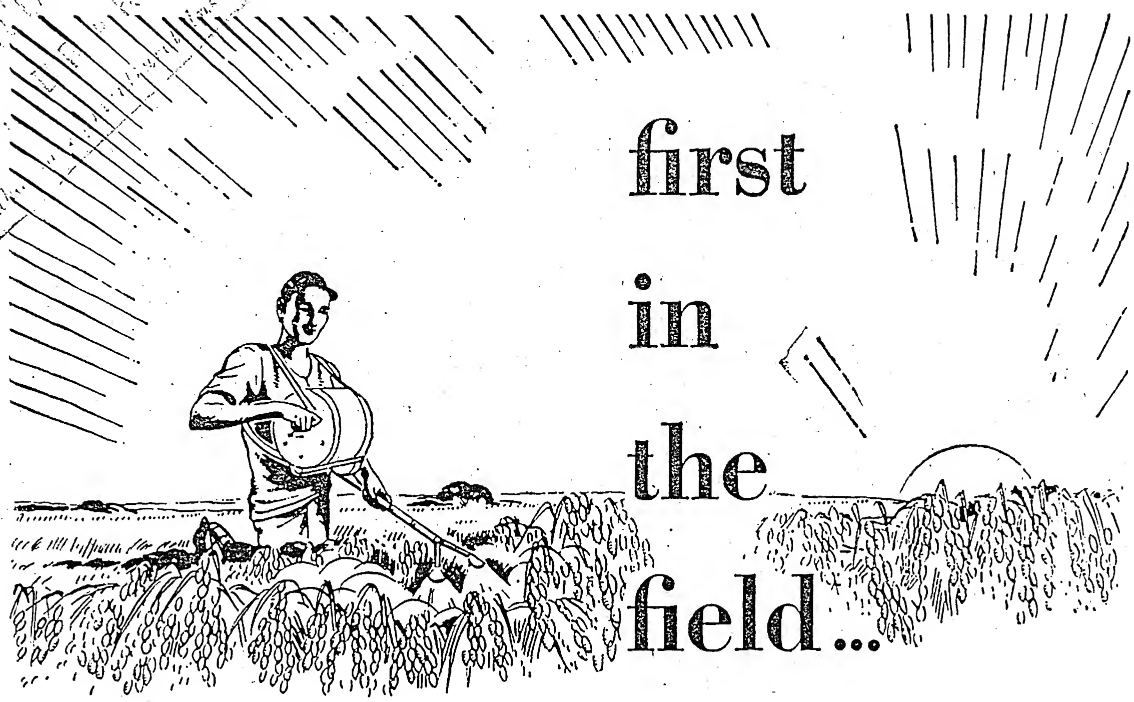
as berries. These precious, tiny seeds which form the basic foundation material from which new varieties emerge are sent down to Patna. The seeds of each cross are separately sown in earthen pans in a mixture of sterilized soil and sand. The seeds germinate within about 10 days and when the delicate seedlings attain a height of 4″-6″ they are first transplanted in small seed-beds where the plants establish and 'harden'. A special field is prepared and the young seedlings are retransplanted in it after a fortnight. Each seedling is carefully observed for its growth, vigour, disease incidence and at the time of harvest specially assessed for yield and tuber characters. Almost every seedling differs from the other in some observable characteristics. This is because a large number of characteristics in which the mated varieties differ are as a result of crossing and invariably every seedling inherits almost a different and distinct combination of characteristics. The seedling progenies of crosses thus provide varied material for the expert to select plants with desired attributes.

SELECTION

The breeder has to watch the seedlings and their progenies at least for 5-6 years before final selections could be made available for large-scale multiplication. In the first year, thousands of seedlings raised from the seeds are under observation as mentioned above. In the second year, tubers from each of the selected seedlings (2000 or so) are planted in 'observation rows' for further study. After a rigorous selection about 20 per cent of the rows qualify for a further test in the third year. In the third year's test the replicated trials act as a decisive sieve to eliminate the less promising types. The efforts thus begin to take a shape. Starting from thousands of seedlings it is possible to select only about 100 commercially desirable types at the end of the third year. In the fourth year, these selections are sent to the States for an adaptive trial and at this stage further elimination of hybrids which do not approach the best of the commercial varieties under a specific set of climatic conditions is possible. Finally, about a dozen promising hybrids are selected and in the fifth year, large scale trials are conducted. The cycle of producing crosses, growing of seedlings, study of observation rows, replicated and adaptive trials continues. Each potato growing tract is thus annually fed with new and better types of hybrids for trials. As a result of such a series of trials, it becomes possible to fit in suitable potato varieties for each climatic zone.

CONCLUSION

The results so far obtained have been encouraging. Nearly half a dozen hybrids are now available for large scale multiplication and distribution. The Government has recently sanctioned a National Scheme of Potato Development for making available better and healthier types of potatoes to the grower. A stage has thus been set to translate research iuto practice. At present, hybrids O. N. 45, 208, 209 and 295 have been found to be promising in the plains of the Punjab, Delhi and U. P. Hybrids O. N. 1151, 2186, 2236 and 2287 have given excellent results in Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. These are being multiplied. As the work progresses it will will be possible to have even a superior batch of hybbrids for these tracts. And thus the work on regionalization of potato varieties is steadily marching on towards its final goal.



In forming our Plant Protection Department our primary aim was to aid growers in India to reap better and larger harvests, and so assist in India's drive for self-sufficiency. To achieve this end we required on the one hand a first-hand knowledge of the problems produced by the various soils, crops and climates of India, and on the other, adequate facilities for research. The former we have through our close connection with Government organisations, planters, cultivators and others, the latter through the research laboratories and farms of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. and Plant Protection Ltd. This has given us a thorough knowledge of India's Plant Protection problems, and we can justly claim to be first in the field in tackling them successfully.

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ICI

IX-F 27

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR A VILLAGE WORKER

(*Continued from page 25*)

quite a bit of wrong information prevailing regarding the best methods for controlling various diseases and pests, so the worker should be sure that his information is reliable. In this field he can easily make mistakes that would retard his programme for many months. If proven methods for controlling a particular pest or disease are not available, the worker should consult his superior officer, and if he is unable to provide the latest information, state authorities should be consulted. From time to time printed material on the control of important pests and diseases will be available through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This material may be obtained by writing to the Council. When a particular pest or disease attacks crops or animals and the village level worker has adequate information and facilities for controlling these attacks he should make every effort to see that neighbouring farmers and villagers witness his control methods. This type of demonstration, if successful, will prove the way of quicker reception of future advice and recommendations.

(6) *Improving storage methods* : The loss caused by defective storage of various crops in the villages is estimated to run into crores of rupees per annum. This is an important problem and is one which villagers can recognize easily. The village level worker can, therefore, devote attention to the solution of this problem early in his programme and feel that he will receive the sympathetic attention of the farmers. There is also a great deal of false information on the best ways to conserve grain and other stored products, so the village worker must be armed with information based on research or obtained from reliable authorities and firms. In this problem, as in others, the aim should be to avoid recommending fantastic and expensive methods even though they may be effective, and to recommend successful methods which are adapted to local conditions and to the ability of the people to adopt.

(7) *Improving agricultural implements :* Any new agricultural implements should be successfully demonstrated by a local farmer and enthusiastically approved by local demonstrators before any such implements are recommended for wide use. The factors involved in determining the value of a new implement or tool are numerous and are often too involved for the general worker to handle. It is, therefore, suggested that villagers be encouraged to experiment with new devices, but that the village level worker refrain from making positive recommendations without the support of successful farmers in his village. After the village worker has become well-established in his community and is accepted as a reliable adviser, it may be that he can make recommendations for the cooperative ultilization of equipment that may not be adapted to the village in current conditions of individual ownership of equipment.

(8) *Improving marketing :* Much of the hardship caused in our villages is due to the lack of adequate marketing information and facilities. In the survey mentioned previously, a complete record of marketing procedures an results should be available. The village worker should study these marketing procedure and ask leaders in his village to assist him in determining ways and means to improve the returns the villager receives for his product. After a careful study is made, however, and after villagers thoroughly understand the problem and are in complete agreement, steps should be taken which should increase the villagers' return.

(9) *Improving sanitary conditions :* This is another problem which can be approached slowly but effectively. Each improvement

(*Continued on page 32*)

A CORRECTION

"September 1952 issue of Indian Farming page 3, for the heading RESEARCH IN COTTON *read* RESEARCH IN COTTON IN THE PUNJAB."

HINTS TO THE FARMER

(*Continued from page 9*)

should not be cut after February. As the plants flower, irrigation should only be given sparingly as liberal irrigation at this time will influence the growing of new shoots, thus hindering the seed formation and reducing the yield of seed. By about April the crop should be harvested. Two to three maunds per acre yield of seed should be considered as a good yield.

SENJI

If berseem is preferred because of its high results and lucerne for its perennial nature, *senji*, has its own useful points to make it one of the important fodder crops where supply of irrigation water is restricted. Senji has been under cultivation since very ancient times especially in rotation with sugarcane. Senji is a short duration crop and leaves the soil in rich condition.

Soil and climate : It is a cold weather crop requiring soils of medium to high fertility. It is especially suitable for the northern India tract where climatic conditions are favourable for its growth.

Preparatory tillage : The land should be prepared as for berseem.

Manuring : Since *senji* follows manured maize or cotton in rotation manuring may not be necessary. But manuring with $1\frac{1}{2}$-2 maunds of ammonium phosphate will result in increased yields.

Seed rate and sowing : The crop is usually sown by the end of September to the middle of November. Twenty to twenty-five seers of seed with the husk on or twelve to sixteen seers of seed without the husk are usually required to sow an acre. As the seed coat is hard it is advisable to soften it by lightly beating the seed or rubbing the seed with a soft brick. The seed is broadcast on a moist seed bed and is mixed with soil by a harrow and then covered by running a plank. It can also be sown in standing water as in berseem. Six to eight hours soaking in water assures successful germination.

After-care : Weeding in young stage would greatly benefit the crop. The first irrigation is usually given after seven to ten days of sowing. The subsequent irrigations may be given at intervals of fifteen to twenty days or as required. Generally two to three irrigations would be quite enough for the crop.

Fodder : The crop shows quick growth in spring. Senji gives one cutting and it should be cut at a stage when the plants are in full flowering and seed formation has already started. The fodder is available from January to the beginning of March. Under favourable conditions the yield goes to over 200 maunds per acre.

Feeding : It is advisable to chaff the fodder and mix with *bhusa* or other dry roughages for feeding the cattle. This is necessary because otherwise *senji* is apt to upset the digestive system of the cattle.

SHAFTAL

While berseem is preferred because of its high yield, lucerne of its perennial habit, *senji* because of its suitability under restricted irrigation facilities, *shaftal* is preferred for its suitability for pasture purposes as it withstands grazing. Originally from Persia and hence known as Persian clover, it had been an important fodder crop of the Punjab. With the introduction of high yielding berseem, the area under *shaftal* has considerably reduced.

The soil and climatic conditions for *shaftal* are similar to those for berseem. The method of cultivation is also similar except that the seed rate is only five to six seers per acre because of the smallness of the seed.

As observed in the Punjab, *shaftal* does not require any inoculation and can be successfully raised on new lands. This quality in *shaftal* makes it an important pioneer crop for the introduction of berseem.

It gives three to four cuttings from December to May yielding about 300 to 400 maunds of green fodder per acre. For seed production it should be left after the second cutting. About three maunds of seed per acre can be obtained.

METHRA OR METHA

Methra is another Indian legume which has long been under cultivation. It is preferred because of the lesser irrigational requirements as compared to *senji*.

Climate : It can be grown under a variety of soil and climatic conditions, almost in any part of the country. Rich loamy soils particularly suit the crop.

The tillage and other operations are the same as given for other legumes described above. Twelve to fifteen seers of seed is required for an acre. The seed should be uniformly broadcast on a well prepared moist seed bed and covered with soil by harrowing and running a *sohaga*. Weeding in the early stages helps the crop. Three to four irrigations are enough to get a good yield.

Fodder and feeding : The crop is usually ready for harvest in three to four months after sowing. A good crop yields 200-250 maunds of fodder per acre. The fodder is fairly nutritious but is said to affect the milk yield adversely if fed in large quantities. As already stated such legumes should form only 30% of the total fodder requirement.

OATS

Oats are not extensively grown in India except on the military grass farms. It is considered to be very palatable and nutritious and is especially popular for feeding horses. Oats are also grown for grain which is fed as a concentrate to the milch cattle.

Soil and climate : It is a cold weather crop growing on all types of soils, fertile loam soils with better water retentive power however, being preferred.

Seed bed preparation : Like other crops, the soil preparation needs to be thorough for the cultivation of oats.

Seed rate and sowing : The crop is usually sown from the middle of October to the middle of November. Twenty-five to thirty seers of seed is required to sow an acre. The seed is usually broadcast on a moist seed bed, is mixed by harrowing and covered by running *sohaga*. It takes about five to ten days for the seed to germinate.

After-care : No particular care is necessary except that the irrigations should be given as required. Three to four irrigations are usually required for fodder purposes.

Fodder : The crop for fodder purposes is usually ready for cutting in February. The best stage for cutting oats as green fodder would be just after flowering. Under favourable conditions of manuring and irrigation it is possible to take two cuttings. The first cutting may be taken in January when the crop is above two feet high and before the appearance of the flowers. The second cutting is then taken in March when the grain is in the milk stage of development, and the fodder is at its best.

The yield of green fodder varies from 200-250 maunds per acre. Oats green fodder has a special position as a cold weather fodder for horses. The fodder can be easily converted into excellent hay.

JOWAR

Jowar is one of the most important food and fodder crops especially in the low rainfall tracts. It is one of those fodder crops which produce a large quantity of green fodder in minimum time under relatively unfavourable conditions. The winter varieties of *jowar* are mostly grown in Western India under the name Shalu.

It can be grown both under rainfed and irrigated conditions.

Soil and climate : Jowar flourishes on all types of soils but best yields are obtained on well drained medium to heavy loam soil. The *rabi* varieties grown either for grain or fodder require milder winters.

Preparatory tillage and sowing : For sowing *rabi jowars* land requires to be ploughed early in monsoon and regularly harrowed to destroy the weeds and to conserve moisture. Where irrigation is available land be prepared as for other *rabi* crops.

Seed rate and sowing : The Shalu *jowar* is usually sown from mid-September to the end of October. The seed, at the rate of 20-25 seers per acre is usually drilled and covered by light harrowing. The seed is also sown broadcast.

After-care : Hoeing between rows will benefit the crop. In case the crop is sown by broadcasting, no weeding will be necessary. The crop may be irrigated as required.

Fodder and feeding : The fodder can be cut 2½-3 months after sowing. Care should be taken not to cut and use the fodder until the flowering stage. If cut before this stage it is likely to cause poisoning of the stock. Even if the fodder is cut before flowering and dried the poisonous quality is still retained and hence cutting before flowering should be scrupulously avoided.

The yield varies between 200-250 maunds of green fodder. It is very greedily eaten by the livestock.

RAPE OR SARSON

While most of the crops described above require irrigation at some stage or the other, *sarson* is a crop which can be grown under unirrigated conditions or where irrigation water is limited. Further, it is a very quick growing crop and is avilable as early as mid-December. Japan Rape and Raya have shown better results in the Punjab.

Soil and climate : Sarson is not exacting in soil requirements, but prefers a good loamy soil. It can also successfully grow on sandy loam soils in rainfed areas.

Preparatory tillage : Since the seed is very fine it is necessary to have a thorough and firm seed bed.

Manuring : Manuring with 5 to 8 cartloads per acre of farmyard manure will give best results.

Seed rate and sowing : Sarson can be sown in mid-September in *barani* areas to the end of October in the irrigated tracts. The seed rate is at 3 seers per acre. The seed being small should be mixed with equal quantity of soil before broadcasting. This will secure a uniform stand; after mixing with harrow a light planking should be given.

Fodder and feeding : The fodder is ready by about the middle of December and can be fed till the end of January when it starts flowering. Yields from 250 to

350 maunds of green fodder per acre can easily be obtained under favourable conditions.

TURNIPS OR SHALGHAM

Turnip is a dual purpose crop which can be used for human as well as for animal consumption. It is a high yielder root crop rich in vitamins and phosphate but is especially suitable for growing under irrigation only.

Soil : Turnips are exacting in soil requirements; fertile loamy soils are preferred. Heavy manuring would result in heavy yields.

Seed rate and sowing : Turnips are generally sown from September to the middle of October at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$-3 seers per acre. The seed is broadcast on flat beds or preferably should be sown on ridges $1\frac{1}{2}$-2 feet apart.

After-care : The first irrigation should be given about a month after sowing. Subsequent irrigation can be given after an interval of a fortnight.

Fodder : The crop is ready for feeding in $2\frac{1}{2}$-3 months after sowing. The roots can be lifted and fed from December to February. A good crop yields 350 to 400 maunds per acre.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR A VILLAGE WORKER

(*Continued from page 29*)

can be made with self effort. Once the villagers are organized and sanitary measures are generally approved by them, and once the village leaders are convinced that action is worthwhile, good results may be seen very quickly and economically.

(10) *Utilization and conservation of water :* This is clearly one of the most important problems confronting the farmer. Due to the fact that procedures in utilization of irrigation water have been evolved through centuries of practice in India any changes which the village level worker might like to introduce will be met with considerable resistance. Also conservation has not received much emphasis in the past and any plans for developing an interest in this aspect of the problem will likely be received slowly. Nevertheless, the problem is important and the worker should begin early in his career planning ways and means of eventually achieving some correction.

(11) *Other problems :* The above listed problems are those which a village level worker may include in his programme soon after he is assigned to his community. There are other important problems that will present themselves as the work progresses. Those listed here are in general terms. Each one is vast enough to become a programme almost in itself. None of these problems is likely to be completely solved in the near future. All, however, must be attacked and some small progress must be demonstrated. As this small progress is demonstrated in each of the above problems, the village level worker will realize that he has a programme and that he can afford to be proud of its results.

FARMER OF THE MONTH

(*Continued from page 5*)

provide for more adequate irrigation facilities as required by her.

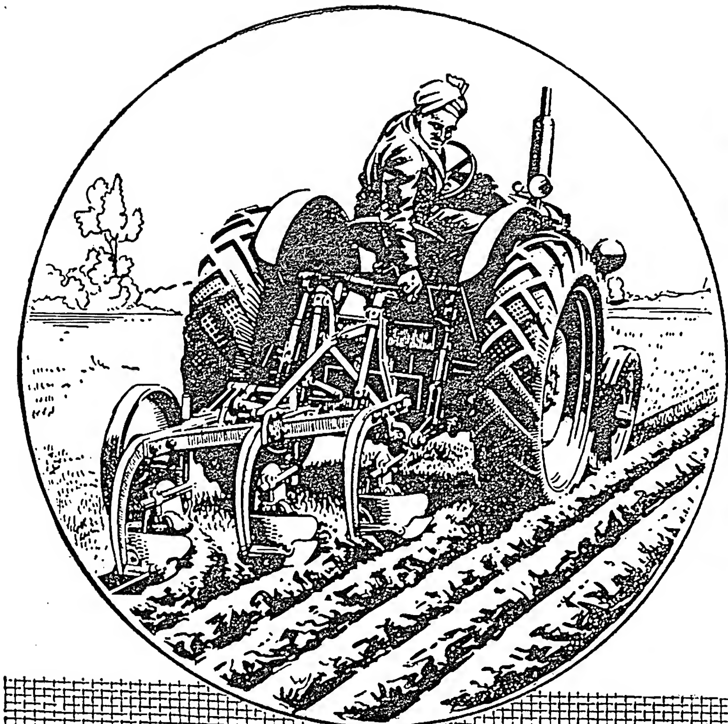
PASSING THOUGHTS

"Should women be farmers ?" I asked her. In reply she led me to her Studebaker car and said "this has come out of my land. What is there to prevent women being successful farmers. There are many in India even today."

Muqurrab Begum is proud of her village and of the fact that she can play a notable part in the development activities of the State. Her being alone does not worry her. When she was asked what arrangements she is going to make for her farm when she feels tired of all these activities her reply was typical. "None," she said. Her own nephew, who is now Chief of the Ford Foundation Training Centre, in the employ of the State Agricultural Department, has been of no assistance to her for obvious reasons. She does not believe in leaving anything for anybody ; in fact, she considers it detrimental to the interests of the coming generation if it were to be pampered by the legacies left by those who sweated and toiled to accumulate it. Her principle is to enjoy the life while she can and then forget all about it and not to worry about who will get what when she is no longer active—a very sensible attitude indeed.

Bhopal has the distinction of having a number of lady farmers carrying on farming operations all on their own. No doubt all of the country's lesser farmers also include ladies looking after this hard work, but credit must be given to this lonely lady of Bhopal for holding her own in a male dominated world.

—PUSHKAR U. OZA

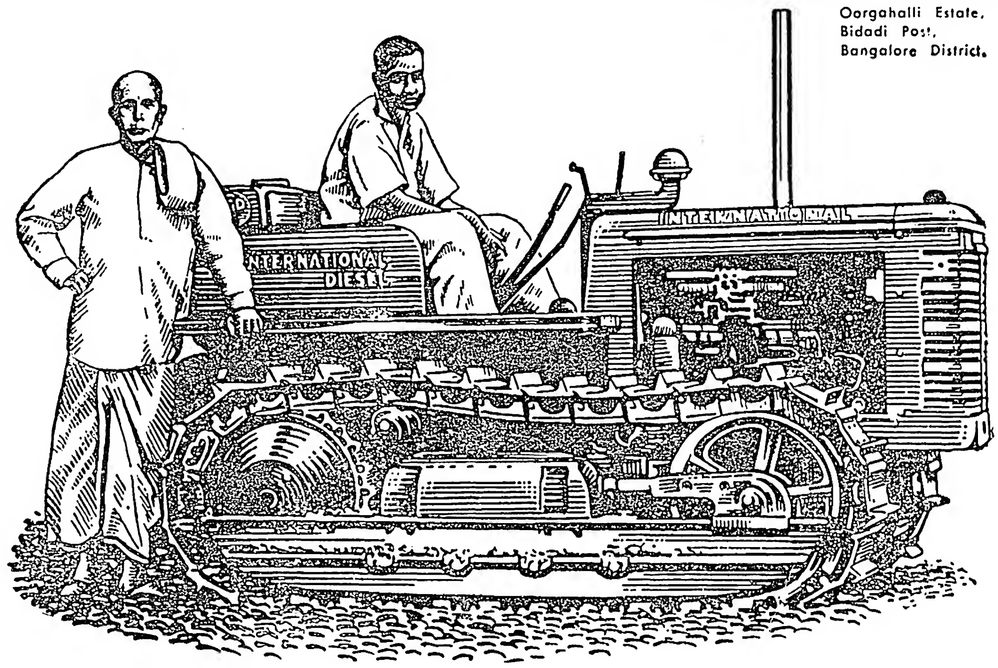


Regd. No. B 6082

FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE SUCCESSFUL FARMER

'I have no trouble in getting my land tilled in time...'

Shri N. Krishna Iyengar,
Oorgahalli Estate,
Bidadi Post,
Bangalore District.



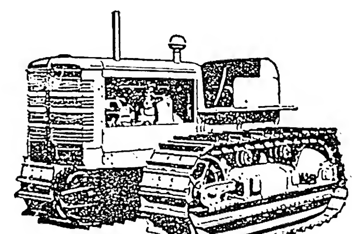
"The size of my farm is 200 acres, out of which 60 are irrigated. The soil is light, medium and heavy. I use a TD6 Tractor to grow ragi, jola and fodder in the rainy season on rain fed land and sugar cane and paddy on irrigated land.

Since 1948 I am using a TD6 Tractor and other auxiliary implements which have given me an average performance of ploughing 6 acres of land 8" to 10" deep in 10 hours of work; while cultivating, I get an average of 20 acres, 6" to 7" deep in 10 hours.

The Tractor and implements have been in regular use and have given me "trouble-free" service since 1948, when I received the tractor outfit. I must add I have no difficulty in getting my land ready for seeding long before it is due".

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

McCORMICK
'INTERNATIONAL' TRACTORS
and Implements



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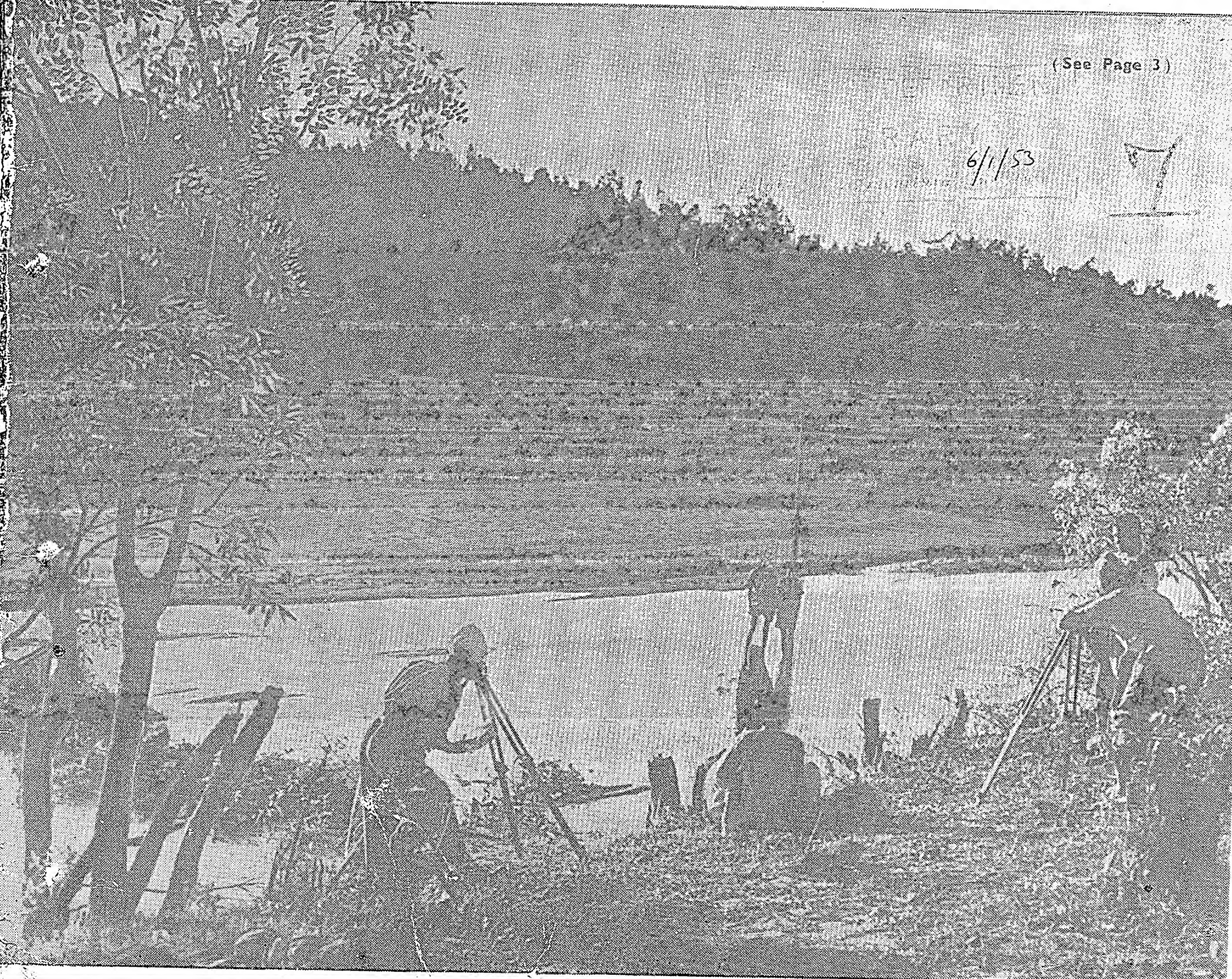
INDIAN FARMING



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Vol. II **New Series No. 9** **December 1952**

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IMPORTANT AND URGENT

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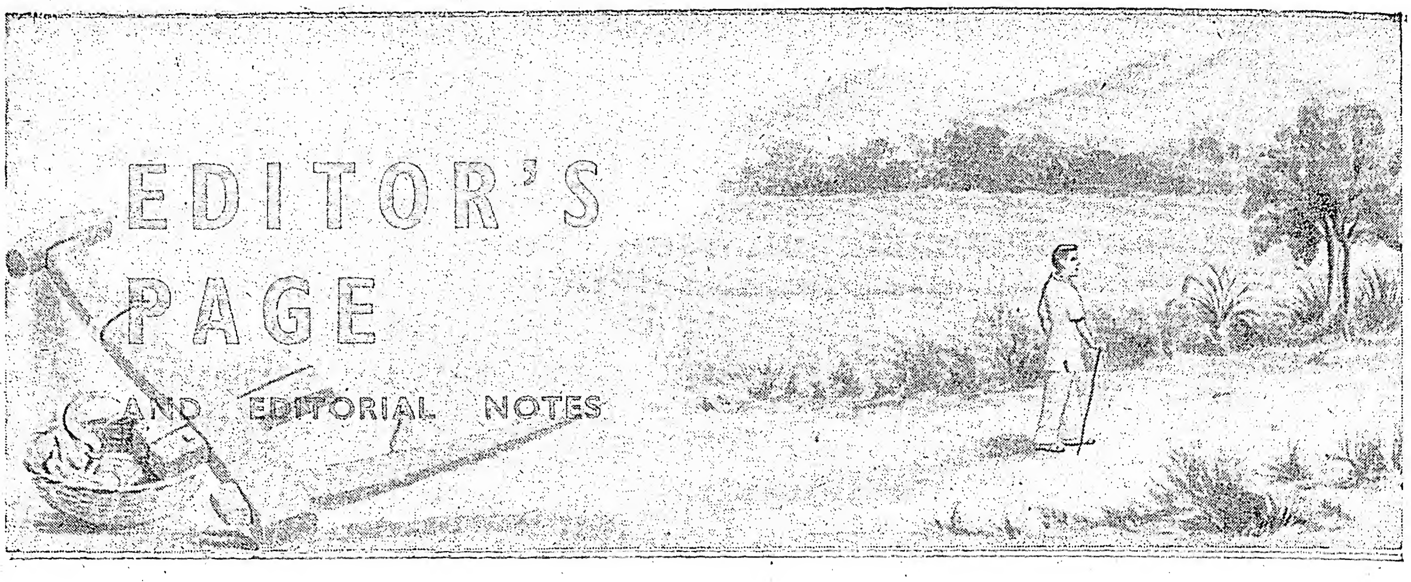


There has long existed a regrettable gap between the research workers in laboratories and the farmers in the field. In order to bring about improvement in agricultural methods and practices, it is necessary that this gap should be bridged so that a constant flow of information from the laboratory to the field is ensured. Not only that. It is also of importance that problems of the farmer should be sent up to the experts for solution. In order to discuss this and allied problems, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research called a conference on the dissemination of agricultural information. This conference met at Lucknow and was in session from the 17th to the 19th November 1952 and was attended by representatives of the Central and State governments, farmers, trades and other private organizations connected with agriculture. A few members of the Parliament also attended.

The fact that representatives of various interests met at a common platform and evinced keen interest in the problem of dissemination of agricultural information points to the awareness of the problem throughout the country.

The Conference discussed the problem from all possible points of view. One of its primary recommendations was that a Central Agricultural Information Organization should be set up with the object that the scientific information is brought within the reach of the farmers throughout the country and also ascertaining his problems for solution. This organization will function through an agricultural information machinery in which various interests will be represented. The main task of this machinery will be planning and helping the agricultural information programme on an all-India basis. In order to act effectively, it is proposed to have a network of agricultural information committees at the State, district, Tehsil and village levels. With regard to the village agricultural committees, initial efforts must appropriately be concentrated in the project areas.

In order that the farmer benefits from the organization which is to be set up, it is necessary that information should be available to him in a manner in which it is comprehensible to him. The low level of literacy in this country has to be recognized in this connection. It is apparent therefore that printed words may not be an adequate medium for conveying agricultural information to the farmer. Other conceivable media of extension work have to be taken recourse to in order to achieve the object. The extension work should be fitted in as far as possible to the actual life of the farmer and the social set up in rural areas. Apart from publications, not only such well known media of publicity as films, radios, etc. should be used, but other unconventional means and methods such as local social functions, rural fairs should also be utilized for this purpose.

It is necessary that the information to be passed on to the farmer should not be dubious in any way. The importance of the organization will be, to a great extent, judged on the authenticity of the information it supplies. For this organization to grow up as intended, special responsibility therefore rests on the specialist advisers it chooses and that is to ensure dependability of the recommendations they make to the farmers.

The great significance of the Conference at Lucknow rests on the fact that it sought to provide a basis for the solution of various problems connected with the collecttion and dissemination of agricultural information. This stupendous nature of the task which this Conference sought to handle was apparent and no attempt was made to minimize it. It was realized that in order to handle the work on such a gigantic scale a great deal of initiative, planning and hard work was necessary. It was thought worthwhile to undertake such a task so that the level of agricultural production in this country might be raised. Discussions in various committees naturally centred round the basic problems and it was

rightly decided to bring into existence a coordinated well-knit agency entrusted with the task of collecting and disseminating scientific information relating to agriculture.

It should be noted here that this was the first time that such a conference was held in this country and the interest and enthusiasm evoked among the participants was indicative of its importance and incidentally of success as well.

The significant part played by the trades and non-official organizations interested in agriculture needs to be stressed. Their whole-hearted cooperation was indeed a welcome feature and a happy augury for the future of the organization.

A very instructive feature was the exhibition of media and methods that was arranged along with the Conference. In this exhibition were shown the various media and methods that could be employed in disseminating agricultural information. The items were such as could be easily adopted in this country to suit special problems in disseminating agricultural information. Publications, charts, models, advertising media of various types, story-telling devices like flannelgraph were all arranged in an instructive manner. In this exhibition also the trades and non-official organizations had sent their exhibits generously. From the number of visitors who saw the exhibition and keen interest that the exhibits evoked, it was felt that such an exhibition was an urgent necessity for the realization of the potentialities of the various media exhibited. The usefulness of such an exhibition in the dissemination of agricultural information could hardly be over-emphasized.

* * * *

A report has just been received from Nagpur showing the beneficial effects of systematic spraying with 50% Benzene Hexachloride for the control of malaria. The work was done in the Sindewahi Project area.

In 1951 only two villages in the 100 village block were sprayed. In August of that year 78 malaria patients were treated, or 15% of the total patients in the block. In September also 15% of the patients were malarial patients, and in October there were 120 malarial patients representing 22% of the total patients in the village. In 1952 three sprayings with 50% B.H.C. were applied at 6 weeks' interval in this block. In August, 1952 only 5% of the patients were malarial patients: in September 7%, in October 6%. The number of malarial patients for October, 1952 was 43, compared to 120 in October, 1951.

Improving health is justification in itself; but one excellent way of increasing production has been demonstrated by the malaria control work done in Sindewahi.

OUR COVER

Damodar Valley Project (West Bengal and Bihar) is one of the most important schemes which are being executed by the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission—India's national agency, for the multi-purpose utilization of water resources.

Damodar Valley: Survey party at work near the Konar Damsite

MEN OF THE MONTH

SIKH FARMERS RAISE Record Wheat Crop

By

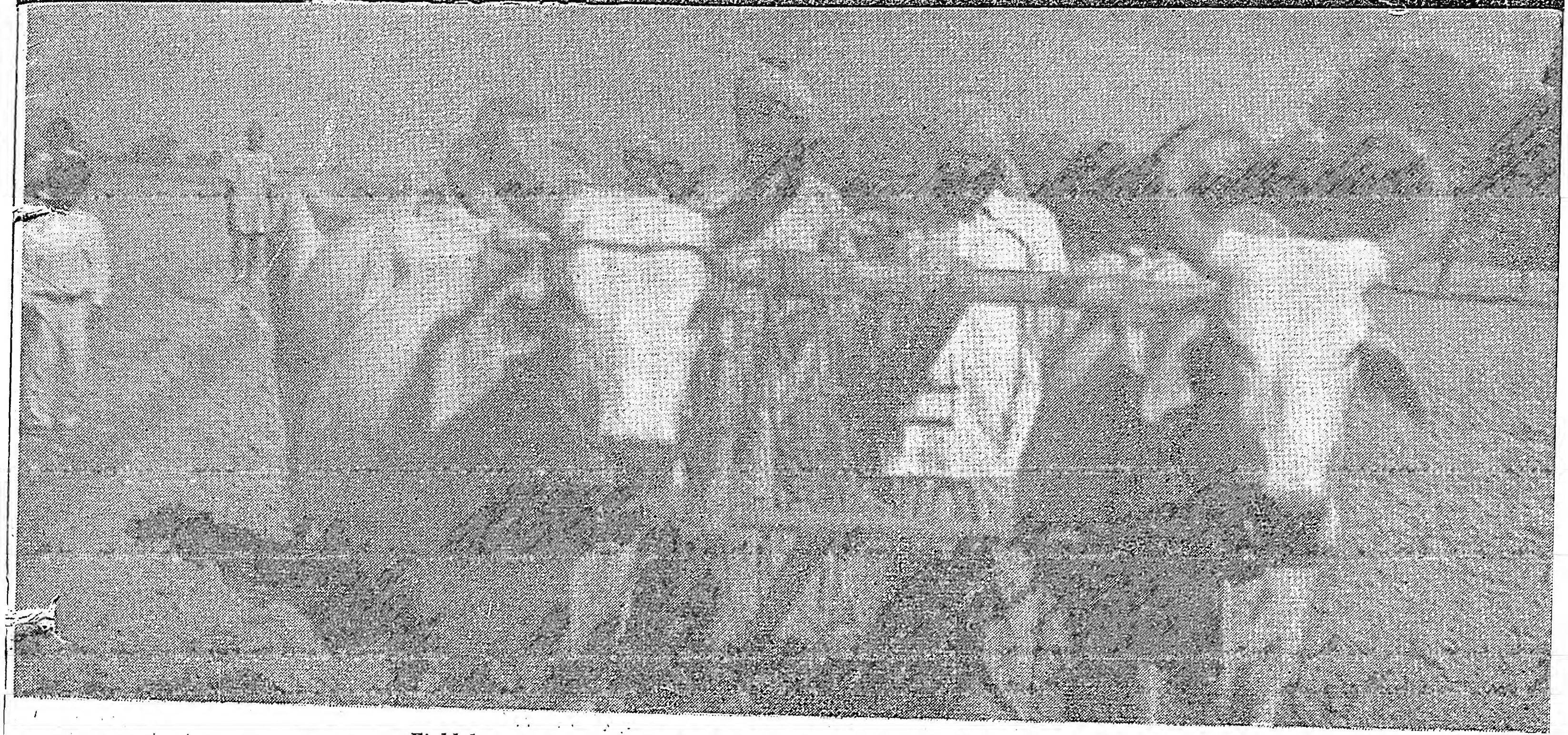
A. R. VYAS

THREE miles from Khanna in eastern Punjab, on a metalled road lies a village with the musical name of Kalal Majra. Here two Sikh farmers have carved out of a wilderness of five years ago, a farm which has raised over 71 maunds of wheat per acre, against the Indian average of about 7 maunds.

These two enterprising farmers are Sardar Ajit Singh of village Kuthar of Jullundur district, and Sardar Gurudev Singh of village Shanker of the same district. Both come of sturdy farmer stock of Punjab which had made that province the "granary of India" before partition and made it self-sufficient within a year after. I was introduced to these "heroes of the land" during my visit to Khanna on *Vijaya Dashmi* day, by my genial host Sardar Hakim Singh. This agricultural officer has done much to increase production from the land, which lies within his jurisdiction. I was told that in the Samrala Tehsil, no American cotton was grown in 1948; now variety 320 F is grown on 3,000 acres, next year the area is expected to increase to 6,000-7,000 acres, leaving only about 2,000 acres under the *desi* variety.

PARTNERSHIP ENTERPRISE

The 380-acre estate which is now known all over the area as the "National Model Farm" belongs to an absentee landlord, who let it run to weeds so that for years it could not meet even the government rent. In 1946 therefore when some persons came forward to take it on lease, he was glad to rent it for 7 years on an annual rental of Rs. 6,200. The first few years of the partnership venture were not noted for any outstanding success; expenses in clearing the land, fitting pumps for irrigation and paying labour were heavy, and there were too many partners which led to constant friction, misunderstandings and hold up of operations. Even so after a net loss of Rs. 15,200 in the first year, the production in 1947 brought in an income of Rs. 31,000 which just squared the accounts for that year. Since then profits began mounting every year, but the amount was small till 1950, when Sardar Ajit Singh and Gurudev Singh took over the sole management of the farm in partnership. The annual income in 1949 was Rs. 36,900; it rose to Rs. 39,900 in 1950. Last year it shot up to Rs. 59,850 and when



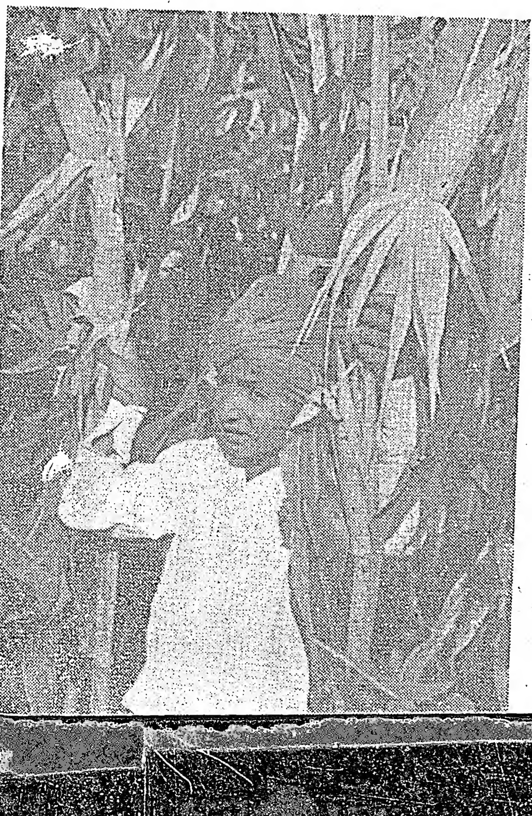
Field being ploughed for the next rabi*—Sardar Gurudev Singh at the plough*

accounts are drawn up at the end of the current year, the income will reach Rs. 80,000. This is from a land, which could not pay its rent only a few years ago; today it bids fair to have grown the largest quantity of wheat on an acre. Last year, the winner of the All-India first prize in wheat had produced 59 maunds 25 seers 11 chhataks per acre; the National Model Farm has grown 71 maunds 23 seers 10 chhataks!

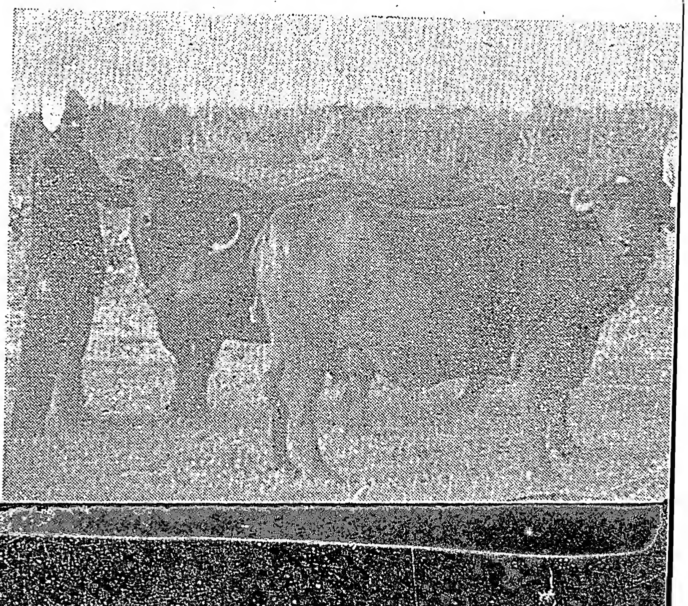
PROFILE OF HEROES

I was interested in the men as much as in their achievements. The older Ajit Singh who is 40, finished his Intermediate course in Government College, Hoshiarpur, and unable to prosecute his studies further because of lack of funds, joined the army in 1931. He quit this job 8 years later, to join the All-India Charkha Sangh and was for some time in charge of the technical side of the Spinners' Association in the Punjab. When the freedon movement started in 1942, Ajit Singh was irresistibly drawn into it. Then followed imprisonment and internment. On his release he became the Manager of the Jullundur-Amritsar Bus Transport Co. But when partition came, he went back to his ancestral occupation—agriculture. He recounts with some amusement, the disappointment with which his father Sardar Dharam Singh greeted this decision of his son. Said the old man: "You have been in the army, wasted years on khadi and the Congress: What good will you do now in agriculture!" He has won outstanding success, but how easily a less unbending resolution, sustained by a less invincible self-confidence might have accepted failure.

Gurudev Sigh is 12 years younger; he too did his Intermediate from the Khalsa College, Amritsar. Almost before he left his books, he had taken to the plough and in his case there were no interludes in the army, or in fighting political battles. In 1946, he joined the National Model Farm and plunged into the task of carving out a living from three hundred and odd acres of wilderness.

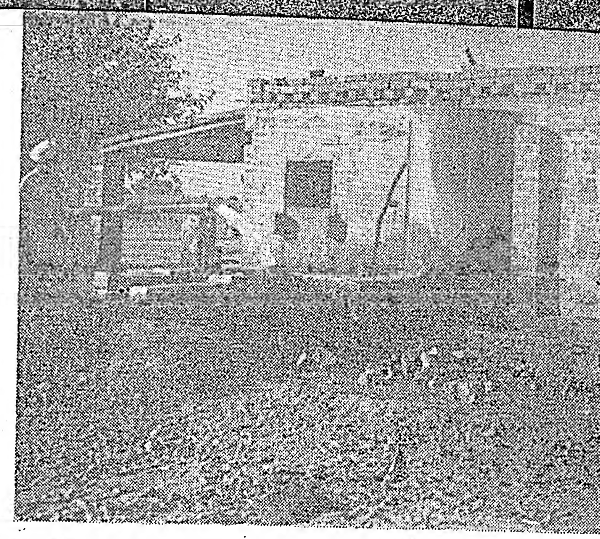


Seven-year Nirmal Singh, son of Gurudev Singh, on his father's maize fields. Each cob weighs 2 to 3 chhataks



They practise cattle breeding as well. One of the buffaloes of the farm which yields 18 seers of milk a day. A prize winner at the last Cattle Show.

The house where the farmers live with their family



16 H.P. pumps irrigate the fields night and day

A common love of the land, wide and varied experience of life and the unbounded energy and enthusiasm of youth make this partnership an ideal combination. As soon as I entered the Farm, I saw level, well-laid out fields being prepared for the ensuing *rabi,* and the standing crops of cotton, maize and sugarcane which were a delight to even a city-bred like me. How much more would they be to the farmers themselves, who see literally the fruits of their labour over the past three years.

During the current season, the farm has 60 acres under cotton, 20 under sugarcane and 7 under maize. I have it on the authority of Sardar Hakim Singh the local agricultural officer, that no better crops of cotton or maize can be seen anywhere for miles round about. Last year's cotton averaged 17 maunds an acre, this year it should be over 20 maunds. The same story of success is repeated in the case of maize. Last year the per acre yield was 81 maunds 10 seers, and individual cobs weighed 2 to 3 chhataks each ; this year the growth is so luxuriant and the cobs are so full, that I should be surprised if a century is not reached. On this one and quarter-acre plot was grown the prize-winning wheat during the last *rabi.*

RECORD WHEAT CROP

The soil which is loamy was under vegetables during the previous two years. The pumpkins were harvested in June 1951 and the land was ploughed up by a tractor. This was followed by 15 ploughings with a *desi* plough and five or six plankings. To prepare a fine seed bed, there were three ploughings alternately with an equal number of plankings, all completed on the same day.

Wheat C 518 was sown on October 20, at the rate of 35 seers an acre. The sowing was done with the single row cotton drill and the distance between the furrows was between 6" and 7."

I was interested to learn that the land which had been under vegetables for two years, had already a heavy residual dose of manure needed for the crop of vegetables. Even so 15 cartloads of farmyard manure had been added towards the end of August. Three months after the wheat had been sown, $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of ammonium sulphate was used.

Irrigation is by pumping sets, and for purposes of watering, the field was divided into eight smaller plots. Six waterings were given during the growing of the crop, almost at monthly intervals. The first irrigation was on November 10 ; then one each in mid-December, mid-January, mid-February, mid-March and the last in the first week of April. Two hoeings were done, the first after the first watering and another after the second irrigation. During the growing period, there was one rainfall of about three inches. The principle that was followed in irrigation, I learnt, was to keep the land always moist especially during the ripening of the crop. Although wheat variety C 518 withstands lodging because of its strong straw, even so when the crop was about $1\frac{1}{4}$ feet high, the top 3" or so were cut,

(*Continued on page 19*)

There are 60 acres of cotton ready to be picked

Hints to the farmer:

Sugarcane

1150 md. cane crop raised at the I. A. R. I. New Delhi.

By P. C. RAHEJA
Division of Agronomy, I.A.R.I., New Delhi

THE introduction of hardy Coimbatore canes has rather led the farmers to relax their efforts at growing the crop with the needed attention and care. Consequently, the cane grown is of inferior quality and gives lower yields. The net profit accruing to the cane grower is less than what it could be with a little more care and a small extra expenditure. Cash crops give handsome returns if they receive proper attention at the hands of the farmers. This note purports to place information in the hands of cane growers to improve their system of cane cultivation.

SOIL AND CLIMATE

Sugarcane generally requires a rich land. It is the inherent fertility of the land rather than the texture of soil that matters. Loamy to clayey soils are suitable for its cultivation. The growth is luxuriant on well

Simultaneous opening of furrows, manuring,

drained lands. On waterlogged or unaerated lands asphyxiation of the footsystem leads to browning of leaf tips and retardation of cane growth. Well drained lands, containing high organic matter, suit this crop admirably. Saline or alkaline soils are less suitable although cane is sufficiently tolerant to alkalinity in the soils. On acidic and laterite soils the growth remains stunted though the quality ratio is very high. In India, concentration of the area under cane is highest in the north alluvial plains. Cane is grown on garden or canal irrigated lands in the South.

Cane for good germination requires a wide range of alternating temperatures with a mean of 80° F. Low atmospheric humidity coupled with high soil moisture is conducive to profuse tillering of cane. In the formative stage monsoonic conditions favour rapid growth. Improved juices result from hot days and cool nights. In northern India, cane planted in February-March starts tillering late in April and continues to tiller till the end of June. The rapid growth starts with the break of monsoon and progresses on upto the middle of September. Thereafter, the cane starts maturing. It is fully ripe by mid-January. The ratoons mature late in November or early December. In southern India, the crop season lasts from 18 to 24 months. The temperatures are more equable and it takes considerable time for the crop to mature. Consequently, the yields of cane and sugar are high.

SUGARCANE VARIETIES

The Coimbatore canes occupy over 80 per cent of the cane area in India. The regional distribution of cane varieties is given hereunder:

Uttar Pradesh: Over 50 per cent of the total cane crop of India is grown in this State. From varietal distribution point of view the State has been divided into three zones, viz. (*a*) western zone: Co. 312 holds the field in the Meerut and Bareilly Divisions. Other varieties introduced are Co. 453, Co. 313 and Co. 244; (*b*) central zone: About 37.2 per cent of the cane area is covered by Co. 312. It is being replaced in Lucknow and Rohilkhand Divisions by Co. 421 and Co. 527. The old varieties persisting are Co. 290 and Co. 331; (*c*) eastern zone: In the Gorakhpur Division Co. 313 and Co. 453 are the dominant varieties. Recently introduced varieties are Co. 421, Co. s. 109, Co. 393, Co. 370 and Co. 356.

Interplanted cane in shaftal (Trafolium rasupinatum) *crop*

Bihar: There are two separate regions in Bihar, viz. (*a*) north Bihar: The trans-Ganga tract extending upto the boundary of Nepal grows Co. 313 to the extent of 35.2 per cent. The mid-season varieties recommended are B. O. 11, Co. 453 and Co. 513; (*b*) south Bihar: Co. 453 is rapidly replacing Co. 331 and now occupies 56.6 per cent area. Other varieties approved by the Cane Department are B. O. 10, B. O. 11 and Co. 513.

Madras: The best variety in performance is Co. 419. Varieties Co. 527 and Co. 421 are recent introductions.

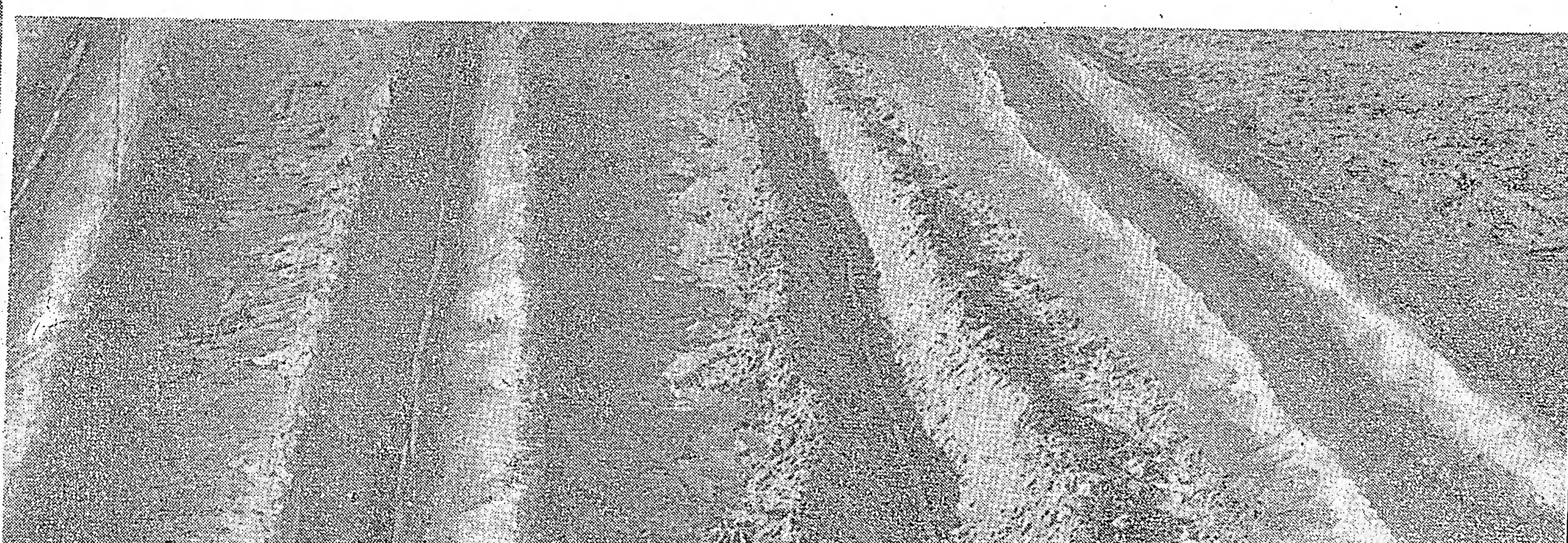
Bombay: In the Deccan canal tract Co. 419 dominates and covers over 70 per cent of the cane area. Similarly, in Gujarat also over 60 per cent of the area is occupied by Co. 419. This variety has replaced Pundia, P. O. J. 2878 and Co. 290.

Hyderabad: The Cane Department recommends Co. 419 and it now occupies 55.2 per cent of the cane area. Other varieties under cultivation are Pundia, Co. 290, Co. 213 and P. O. J. 2878.

Punjab: The main season variety, for *gur* as well as factory area is Co. 312. Varieties Co. 421 and Cos. 9 are being recommended to replace Co. 312, Co. 213 and indigenous canes.

Orissa: The new varieties Co. 419 and Co. 421 are rapidly replacing Co. 213 and indigenous canes.

planting and covering up setts with the gatherer. End to end planting of cane setts in furrows

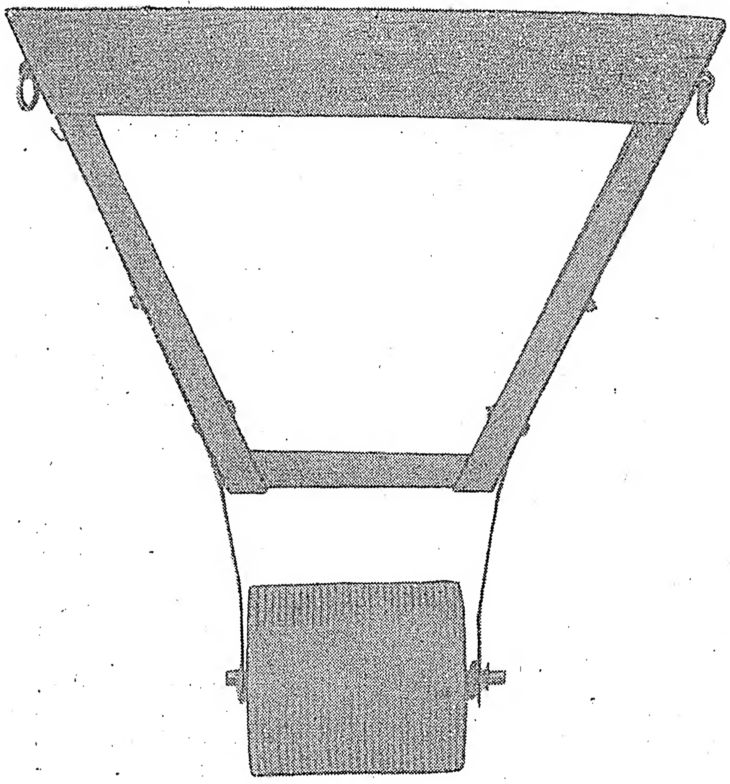


West Bengal: Varieties Co. 213 and Co. 313 were introduced about 15 years ago. Now the Department of Agriculture is replacing them by Co. 421 and Co. 527 for mid and early seasons, respectively.

Delhi: At the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, the performance of Co. 647 has proved superior to that of varieties Co. 453, Co. 312 and Co. 421. Tests with it in villages, as superior *gur* cane, have shown promise for its introduction to replace Co. 312, the dominant cane of the region.

PREPARATORY TILLAGE AND CULTIVATION IMPLEMENTS

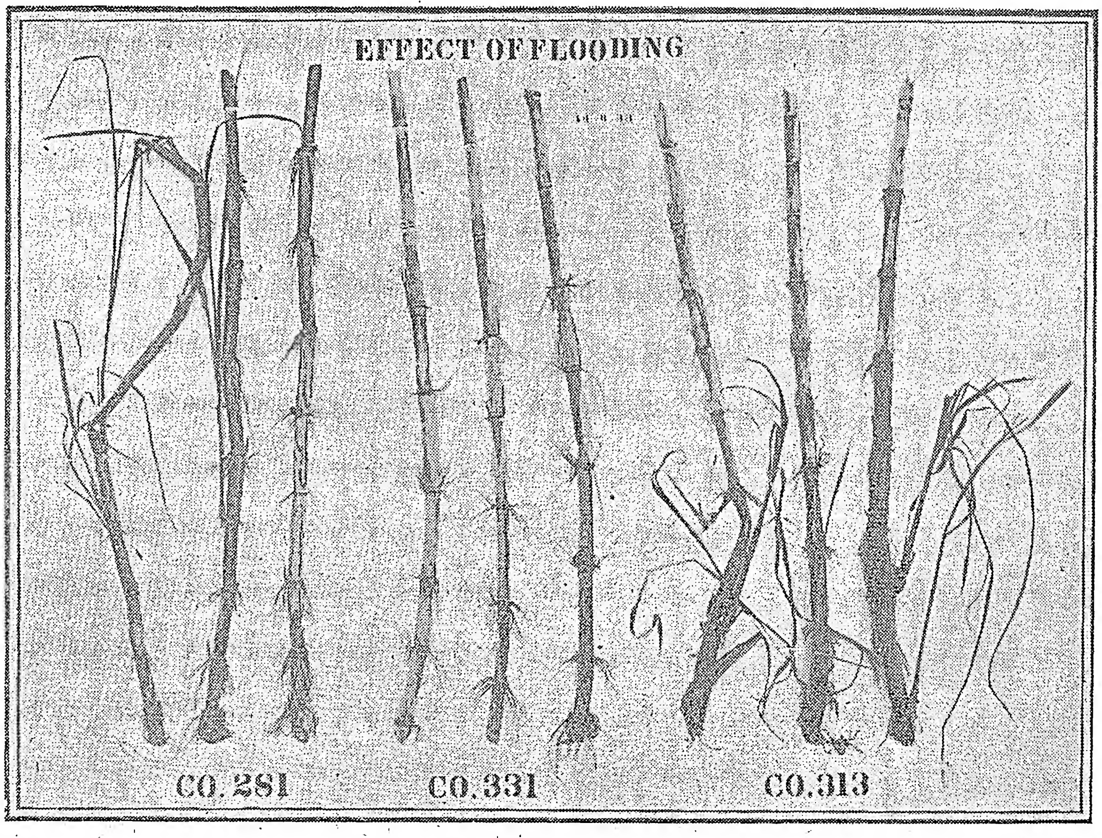
Preparatory tillage naturally depends upon the preceding crop and method of cane planting. In most parts of India land lies fallow. Good cane growers green-manure the field during the monsoons. Fallow lands should be given repeated cultivations during monsoon and post-monsoon seasons as and when the land is fit to be cultivated. Experimental results at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, have shown that ploughing deeper than 6 ins. is of little advantage. Repeated shallow cultivations should be given to the land where a sugarcane crop is to be raised. The green-manured land should not be disturbed till about the middle of October when it should be opened and given 6 to 8 cultivations prior to cane planting. This gives a firm seed-bed suitable for good germination and the plants can draw food from large open soil mass which retains more moisture than is otherwise possible. For preparation of cane lands it is advisable to have a furrow turning plough. This is also useful in turning a green manure crop and breaking stubble of *jowar*, *bajra*, maize and sugarcane. If it is a light soil, light furrow turning ploughs of the type



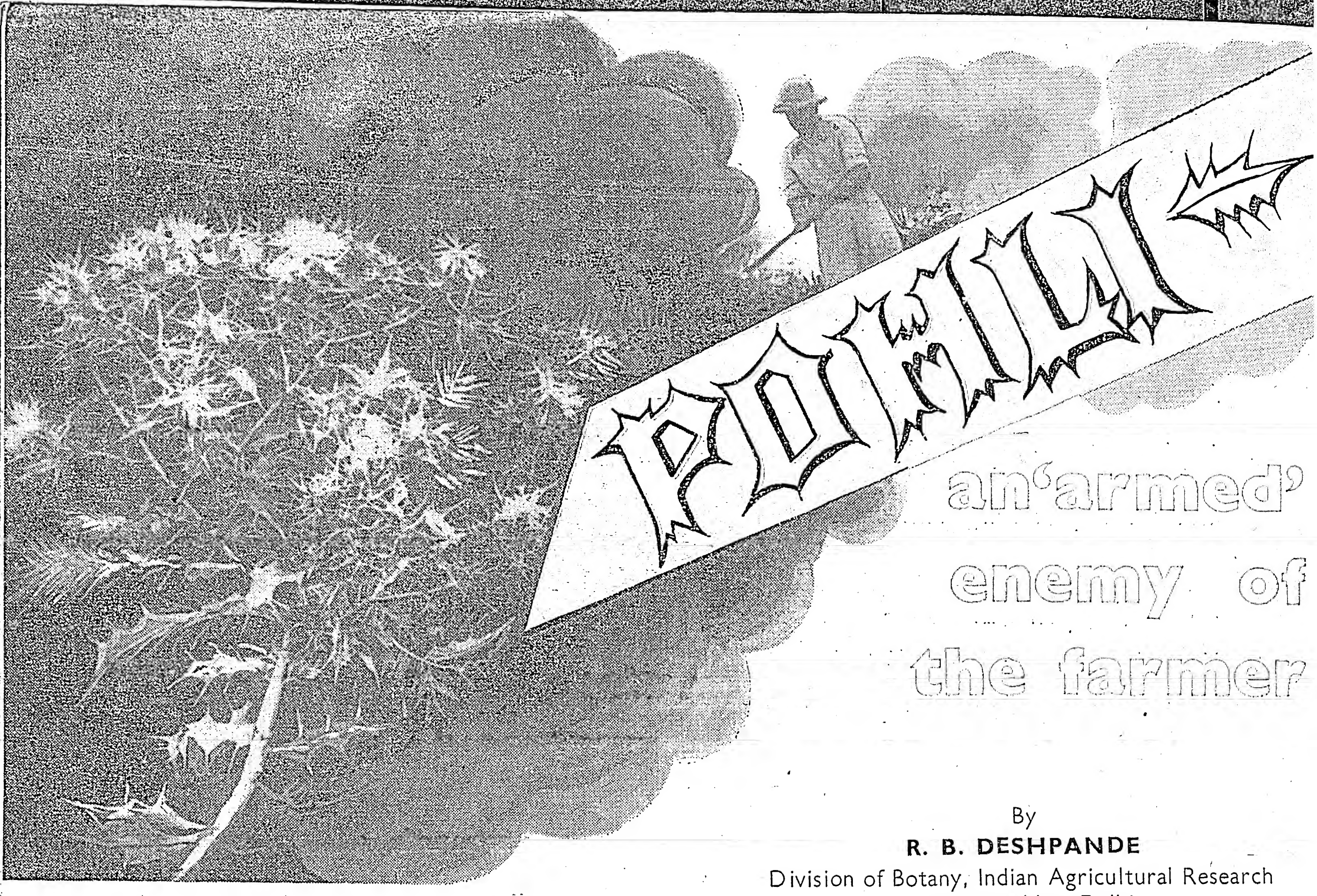
Gatherer, used to cover the setts with earth from ridges

of Meston, Watts or Allahabad will do whereas Victory or Raja ploughs are more suitable for heavy lands. For subsequent cultivations of alluviums *desi*

(*Continued on page 22*)



Damage to seed cane caused by water submergence



POHLI

an 'armed' enemy of the farmer

By

R. B. DESHPANDE

Division of Botany, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

POHLI is the wild form of *kusum*, or Safflower, one of our oilseed crops. Some of its vernacular names are *karar, poliyan, kantiara, kandiari,* etc.

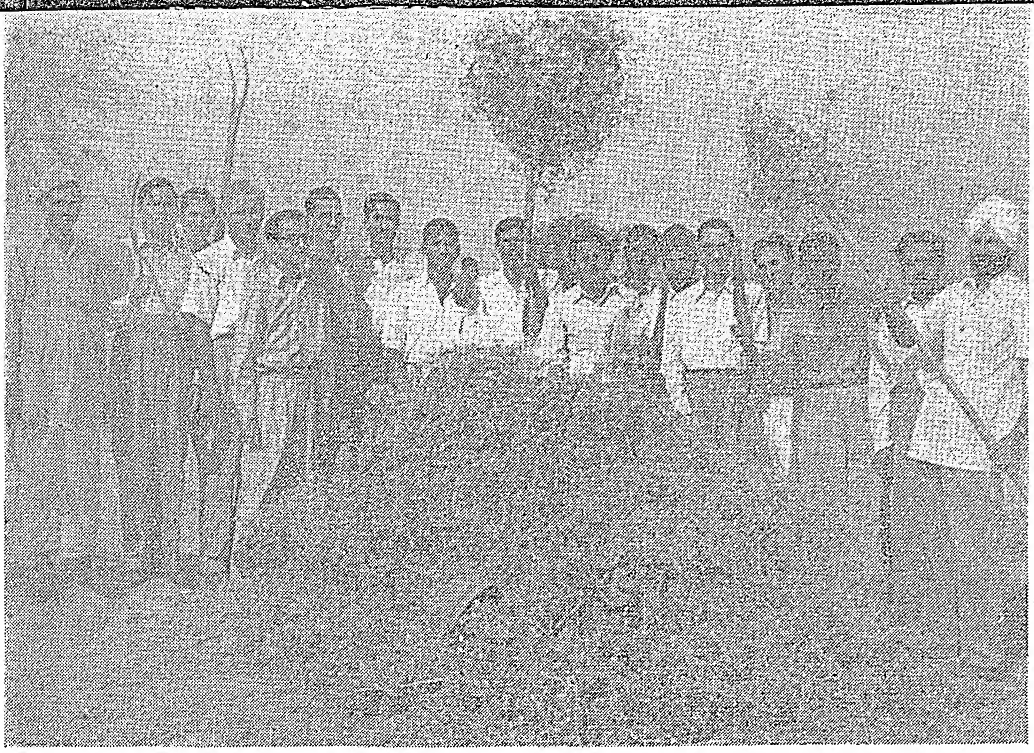
Pohli is found in abundance in many of the drier parts of northern India. It is commonly found in the Delhi State, some areas being highly infested. For instance, if one were to go along the Rohtak Road a few miles from Delhi in April-May one would see on either side of it pale yellow patches, or even long stretches of vegetation. This is *pohli*.

The *pohli* perpetuates itself afresh annually through seeds and is very hardy and can complete its life cycle under very low amount of soil moisture. The plant is very spiny, except in its early stages. The foliage is pale green and the flowers pale yellow. The seeds are small, elongated, tapering at one end. The *pohli* is likely to be mistaken for the Mexican poppy. The latter, however, has greenish white leaves, is less branched and possesses flowers with much larger petals. The seeds resemble those of mustard. The seed colour varies from white to jet black. Mottled seeds have also been observed. The oil content is about 28 per cent.

The *pohli* is a noxious weed of the winter crops, e.g. wheat, gram, etc., and like all other weeds it draws on the plant food and moisture in the soil, which are intended for the crop. The weed, moreover, tends to suppress the growth of the crop plants by overgrowing or completely smothering them. Being spiny it interferes with the harvesting of the crop and is often left alone by the farmers. Some plants, however, get harvested and threshed along with the crop in which they grow, and thus their seeds find their way into the seeds of the crop, thereby lowering their value. Through sowing such seeds the weeds spread and multiply. The *pohli* weed has been found to reduce the yield of wheat and gram to an extent varying from 5 to 40 per cent. in the Punjab districts.

Pohli seedlings usually make their first appearance in the cultivated field from about the middle of November. The plants are spineless in earlier stages and are, therefore, easy to handle. At this stage they can be fed to cattle or even used as a vegetable. This is,

The IARI Land Army tackling 'pohli' plants in Qamruddin Nagar village near Delhi



The Land Army feels pleased at the heap of 'pohli' they have been able to gather in a short time

therefore, the best stage at which the *pohli* plants should be removed. The cultivators should make it a point to hoe their *pohli* infested fields so that not only would the *pohli* plants be removed, but the crop would also be benefited by it. If the *pohli* is not removed at this stage, it develops spines and becomes very difficult to handle. Moreover, it will later flower and set seed and may infest not only the same field afresh but many other fields, and hence the desirability of removing the weed in the seedling stage, or at any rate, before seed setting. If *pohli* escapes attention at the seedling stage, it should be harvested along with the crop itself. The *pohli* plants should be collected and burnt so that the seeds are destroyed or at least their power to germinate is lost. It is often observed that owing to the plants being spiny the cultivators do not touch them at the time of the harvest. For this reason, a *pohli* infested crop should where possible be harvested with a reaper. The *pohli* plants which have escaped removal at the first operation or at the time of harvest should be removed and collected in heaps in suitable places, before they are dead ripe, and burnt. When dead ripe, they are easily broken at the base and blown by wind to long distances dispersing the seeds and thus infesting fresh areas.

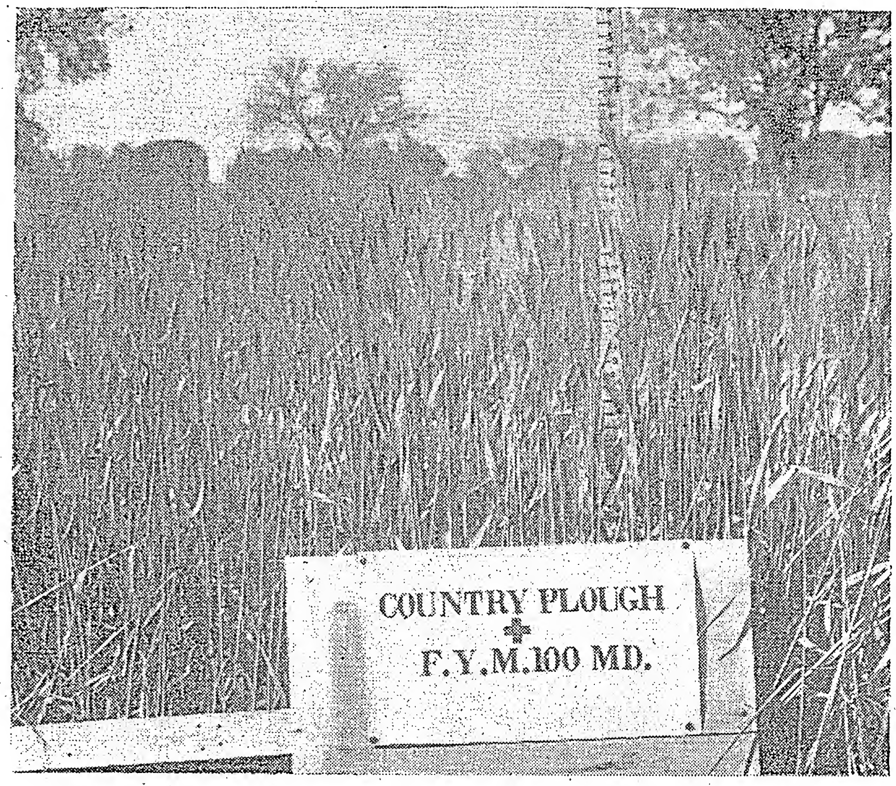
The *pohli* weed problem, therefore, is a serious one and needs to be tackled systematically and with concerted, continuous efforts. This is not a job for one isolated cultivator. The problem can only be effectively tackled if all the cultivators of a village, irrespective of whether their lands are infested with *pohli* or not, join hands in the war against this noxious weed. There should be cooperation not only between the cultivators of a village but between villages themselves. The campaign against this weed must be carried out at least for about four or five years continuously in order to have lasting effect. The cultivators should arrange '*pohli* eradication week' periodically and it should be made obligatory on all the villagers to take active part in the campaign.

In order to stimulate the interest of the cultivators in the campaign, competitions should be organized and rewards offered to individual cultivators, and also to villages taking the keenest interest in the eradication of the *pohli* weed. If, however, for any reason the campaign is not effective, the State governments concerned should enact legislation as the Punjab Government have done.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute took steps to bring home to the cultivators of certain villages in the Delhi State the seriousness of the *pohli* weed problem and to impress on them the necessity of organizing a regular campaign against it. The various Land Army units of the I. A. R. I. went into action in the Nangloi village in the month of May this year, and showed to the cultivators how effectively the problem could be tackled collectively. On the first occasion, Shri K. M. Munshi was present and expressed satisfaction at the way the war against the *pohli* weed, one of the worst 'armed' enemies of the villagers, had begun.

Villagers took keen interest in the 'pohli' eradication campaign

PLOUGHING IS MANURING



Good crop of wheat obtained at the I. A. R. I.

By **A. R. KHAN** & **B. P. MATHUR**
Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute,
New Delhi

SO goes the adage. There is a lot of wisdom in these proverbs. Also there are many traditions connected with them. Farmers, confident of the art handed down to them by their predecessors, have attained a high standard of perfection in 'cultivation'. The tillage tool of today would be recognized without difficulty by the farmer of two centuries ago. He would immediately recognize the actual operations. The tiller still believes in practising a series of operations to produce dust-mulch the so called 'tilth'. Tillage is still the most costly single item in arable farming.

Yet, there is another school of workers who advocate the abandonment of ploughing and want to know the scientific background in support of this practice. Though a large number of experiments have been done on manuring during recent years, the tillage experiments recorded in literature are relatively few. This is, perhaps, because tillage is so universal that it has been taken for granted to be carried out without further scientific knowledge.

The matter, therefore, needs further exploration; especially the necessity for reducing tillage cost, as affected by the depth and frequency of cultivation, is obvious.

FIELD EXPERIMENTS STARTED

In order to obtain an answer to the query raised above extensive field experiments are under way on the farms of this Institute for more than a decade. The results arrived at or indicated by these studies are summarised below :

DEPTH OF PLOUGHING

In the past deep ploughing was strongly advocated and many experiments were conducted all over the world to determine the optimum depth of ploughing. Similar work was started here. The conventional method of cultivation, 4 to 5 inches deep, by the local 'country' plough with an initial ploughing

by a soil inverting one was compared, after doubling the depth, with tractor plough followed by implements (cultivator and disc). In general it was found that shallow depth of ploughing as obtained by 'country' plough is the most practicable depth to plough. Deep ploughing doesn't pay. These findings are in general agreement with results obtained in other parts of the world.

FREQUENCY OF CULTIVATION

Considerable work has been done on the frequency of cultivation of wheat and maize in the Institute. I wish to mention here the work on wheat. From an investigation where a frequency of 3, 6, 9 and 12 cultivations with 'country' plough was maintained, the best results in general were obtained from plots which received 9 cultivations. It may, therefore, be safely concluded that just enough cultivation, and not the abandonment of it, to keep down weeds and maintaining soil in a receptive condition to absorb rainfall, is the most efficient cultivation. Anything in excess of this bare minimum is superfluous and must be avoided. Timely cultivation, and not frequent cultivation, should be the ideal.

RESULTS TESTED

The above results derived from experimental plots, were tested on a field scale this year. An acre of land with average fertility was selected and sown with wheat. The crop came up nicely. It was, however, damaged badly by hail on the 1st March, 1952. The yield of grain obtained from this field was 25 maunds 3 seers. This would have gone up to 39 maunds (on the basis of samples drawn from the remaining patch of standing crop) had there been no hail. However, for the purpose of calculation, the actual yield has been taken and not the one estimated.

An idea of the expenditure and receipt may be had from the following statement :—

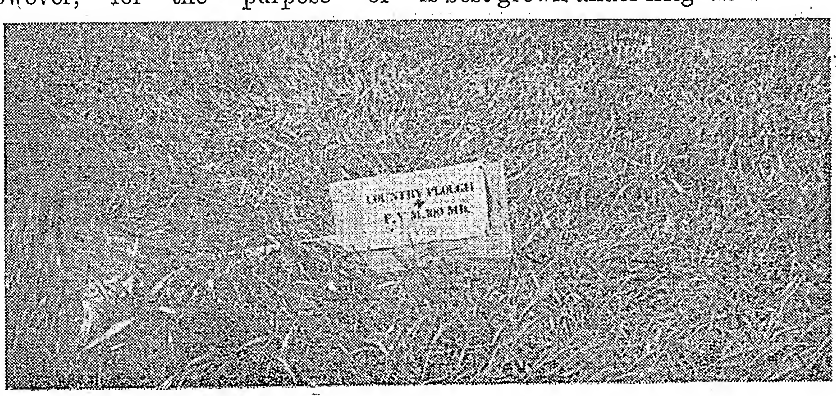
Outlay operation	*Amount* Rs. a.
Ploughing and preparation land (9)	63 0
Manuring *plus* spreading (5 carts)	28 0
Sowing *plus* cost of seed ..	20 0
Irrigation & labour (2) ..	28 8
Harvesting, threshing ..	87 8
Total ..	227 0
Return	
Grain—25 md. 3 sr. @ 14/6 per maund	360 8
Straw—62 md. @ 3/14 per maund	240 4
	600 12
Saving	373 12

Note :—The above figures are based on farm rates.

As will be seen from the above statement, a little skill, in doing the job just enough and timely, can do a lot of good to the farmer. Not only can he reduce expenditure on tillage, but he can also avoid a serious situation resulting from indiscriminate cultivation into a 'dust bowl'.

There should, not however, be any misunderstanding about the place of tractors in farm economy. They are invaluable for cheapening production and doing the job timely. The only care we should take is not to use them for deep ploughing under ordinary circumstances.

The above method would apply to 'loamy' soils of northern India with semi-arid climate where wheat is best grown under irrigation.



Crop damaged by hail

....and perfumes too

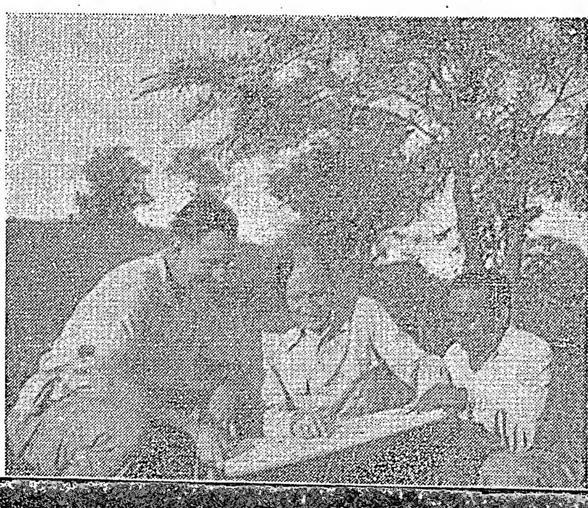
By
HANS E. KARDEL

THIS is a story about grass but not the customary varieties with which we are generally familiar. It is not a fodder variety but is grown for extracting valuable oil which is used in making sweet smelling soap, vitamin "A" pills, or fragrant perfumes of the best French selections.

My first introduction to lemongrass took place when Mr. G. N. M. Pillay, Manager of the "Kelly Plantation," Malabar, Madras State, brought a basketfull to our office in the Department of Agriculture, Bangalore. He also brought 24 samples of soil from the 1,000 acre area now being developed for lemongrass production to find out about fertilizer requirements and improved cultural practices.

At a dinner engagement with Mr. John Willing, Executive Director of the Wynaad Essential Oils (India) Ltd., which also operates the "Kelly Plantation," we were requested to visit the farm. "We" means, Dick

Left to right:—Dick Fagan, Ext. Specialist, Mr. John Willing, Mr. Pillay, Farm, Manager, looking over Map of Farm



Hans Kardel looking over pineapple plantation near Wynaad

the source of sweet smelling soap

Lemongrass-

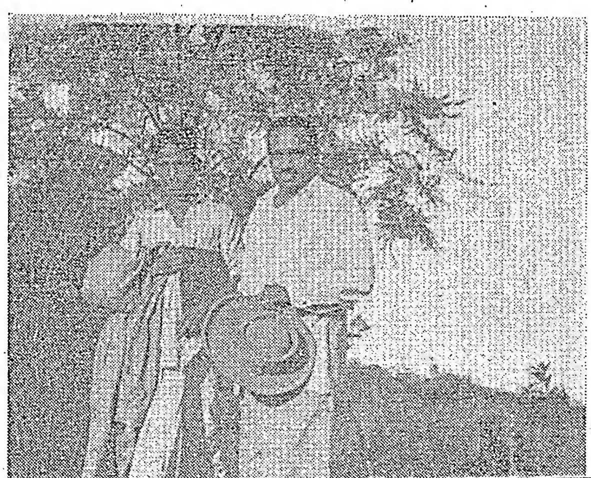
Fagan, my partner here, a former Montana Agricultural teacher, and myself. A few weeks later, following an afternoon tea at the Willing residence, we left by car for the Wynaad district.

Travelling south-west, a beautiful June day over winding black-topped roads, our first stop was at Mysore City, about 80 miles from Bangalore. The road between Bangalore and Mysore City is lined with stately banyan trees. Many of the branches grow long roots, reaching towards the ground, and often form a new tree when ground contact is established. Driving on this road at night reminded me of scenes from the movie "Snow White and the 7 Dwarves." The fields vary from gently rolling to steep and badly eroded slopes. Farmers were out plowing with their bullocks and ancient wooden ploughs. Rain was badly needed in order to start planting the very important Ragi crop. Ragi is a food millet which, together with rice form the main diet of the village folks. We also passed some irrigated areas with promising rice fields, and proceeded towards Mysore's fertile river valleys decked with majestic coconut palms.

About 59 miles from Mysore we stopped at the Madras State border in a densely wooded area to pay toll. "We ought to see some elephants or tigers to night," Mr. Willing commented. "Last time we drove through this jungle a huge elephant blocked the road. We stopped, turned off the motor and sat there scared stiff, hoping he would not tip our car over."

Agricultural Inspector in-charge of resettlement of former soldiers, Wynaad

Mr. Pillay and his bearer



Workers waiting for their pay

However, that didn't happen this time and we were disappointed not to see any big game that evening.

Early next morning looking out of the window we agreed that this was the most beautiful spot we had seen in India, and for the first time, we saw lemongrass fields. That morning we walked 6 miles up and down the slopes, observing the growth of the grass, securing more information, and becoming convinced that no tractor made to-day would be able to navigate on this type of terrain.

About 600 acres of the Kelly plantation are in lemongrass. It was hard to comprehend that all of this land, except 4-5 acres, had been hand-worked in order to bring it under cultivation. Most of the grass was seeded by hand and the seed covered by children who literally take the soil with their fingers. In other parts, the grass was transplanted on the steep slopes to cut down serious erosion. About 170 workers, mostly women and children, are continuously engaged in weeding. Large fern and elephant-grass are the most troublesome weeds. We observed about 50 women who were just starting the harvesting operations. They worked in a group cutting the grass by hand with a sickle (*arruval*). They are paid by the "pidi." A "pidi" is a handful of grass tied together with a spear of grass. These small bundles are placed in rows for easier pick-up. About 800 "pidis" form a day's work. The wages are about one rupee per day. Five to Six crops are harvested each year. The average annual rainfall is 140 ins. Heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds, is common during July. Last year 13.8 ins. were recorded on July 23rd. and 13.4 ins. on July 24th. As a soil conserver on these long slopes, lemongrass is natural.

A narrow, winding road has been built around the slopes. A tractor and two trailers are used for hauling the green grass to the processing plant. The whole area was at one time a coffee plantation and few coffee bushes are still left in places. Boulders, scattered teak, rosewood, and gooseberry trees also adorn the landscape and add to the problem of farm mechanization.

The trunk of a gooseberry tree reaches a diameter of 18 ins. and a height of 30 ft. The berries are used for medicinal purposes, pickles, and curry.

The processing plant consists of six stills each with a capacity of 700-900 lb. of grass. Wood is now used for fuel, but modern oil burners will soon replace the old wood burners. The grass is kept in the still for about two hours. The oil is directed to a water-cooled aluminium condenser with coils about 25 ft. long. A spring, located about 85 ft. from het plant, provides water for the operation. The "spent grass" is returned to the soil as a source of organic matter. The whole process reminded me of the Mint processing in Eaton Co.

An many as 1000 men and women are employed at the peak of the harvesting season. A new one-storey brick building, 28×81 ft., with tiled roof is under construction to house six families of the regular field work crew. This will be a big improvement over present housing which consists mostly of one room mud huts with coconut palm leaves as roofing.

The Wynaad Company provides a doctor, who lives on the Plantation, and free medicine and housing. The workers are allowed 14 days' sick leave annually. Each worker is also provided with a blanket each year. The women average Re. 1 per day and the men Rs. 1-8-0 (E—rupee equals 16 annas and about 23 cents in American money). The men work mostly in the processing plant, and at road building and land clearing.

The extracted oil from each field is tested in a modern laboratory and detailed records show date of cutting, tonnage, weather conditions, time between cutting the grass and processing, and, perhaps most important, the citral content of the oil and yield per acre.

The Cymbopogon Flexuosous variety of lemongrass is grown exclusively and the extreme care in hand-weeding and cutting ensures a high quality product.

A big task has been accomplished since Mr. Willing and Mr. Pillay (old army friends) began clearing the mountain side and planting lemongrass in February and May 1951 respectively.

About 6 P.M. we were near a dense jungle and we suggested it would be interesting to cross this jungle to reach the next field. "Let's turn around," advised Mr. Pillay. "We are not armed and in that strip of jungle we might face unfriendly tigers, panthers, or elephants, not to mention poisonous snakes." Needless to say, we followed his advice. "Did you ever consider using sheep as weeders?" I enquired, while strolling home-ward on the narrow path. "Back in Michigan commercial strawberry growers use geese as weeders and find it very practical, but that lemongrass tastes pretty strong and I doubt if sheep would eat it." "That's worth looking into" replied

(*Contd. on page 31*)

MEN OF THE MONTH

(*Continued from page* 6)

because of a fear of lodging. At the time of harvest on April 14, the crop stood 5 feet high. The yield was 71 maunds 23 seers and 10 chhatacks. The expenses on growing the wheat were about Rs. 350 per acre and the income from the sale of wheat and fodder totalled Rs. 1120.

THE LAST SEASON

I watched the bullocks ploughing the fields which were getting ready for the next *rabi*, and I asked my new friends what their plans were for the utilization of the land during the next season. In a tone of resignation which I could not miss, they said: "This is our last season; the lease comes to an end next year. In any case we shall put 100 acres under wheat, 40 under fodder crops, and 20 acres each under vegetables and gram."

It was difficult to believe that all the efforts of my friends during the past few years were to come to naught because the lease expired in 1953. The subject was painful, but I pursued it. "Surely, the landlord will renew the lease?" I asked.

"The price of renewal rises almost daily" said the younger of the partners. "Some time ago, it was Rs. 20,000 a year, now we hear he wants Rs. 30,000. This of course, we cannot afford."

Sardar Ajit Singh the older of the partners continued where the other had broken off. "If we were assured of another spell of lease, there is so much we could do to improve the land. We could make the water channels *pucca*, try further experiments in rotation of crops, grow better varieties of wheat and cotton, and do so much more besides. We found this place a wilderness and through our sweat and toil have made it a truly model farm. Now we are being asked to quit."

As I rose from the *charpai* on which we had all sat together and carried on the conversation, and prepared to go, I asked my hosts one final question. "What will you do if you have to leave this farm next year?"

"We will fight for staying on but if we fail, we shall seek new land to carry on the work we have begun." There was no mistaking the determination in their voice. I feel sure that wherever these Sikh farmers go, whatever lands they cultivate, they will always come out on top, for farming is in their blood.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Indian Central Arecanut Committee has decided to award a prize of Rs. 2,000 for the invention of a time-saving machinery for husking and slicing arecanut. The details of the prize may be obtained from the Secretary, Indian Central Arecanut Committee, P. B. No. 14, Kozhikode (Calicut), South India.

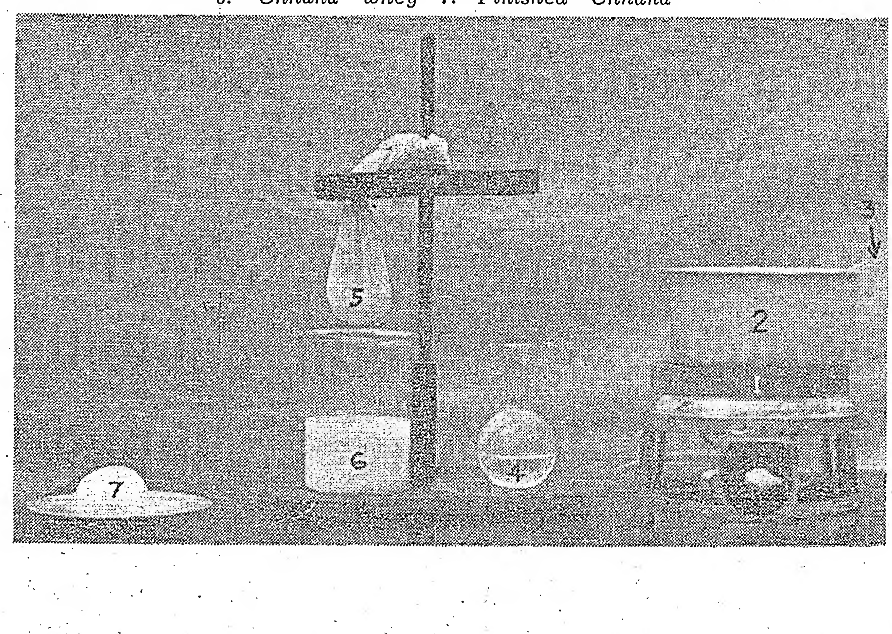
MILK and its Products

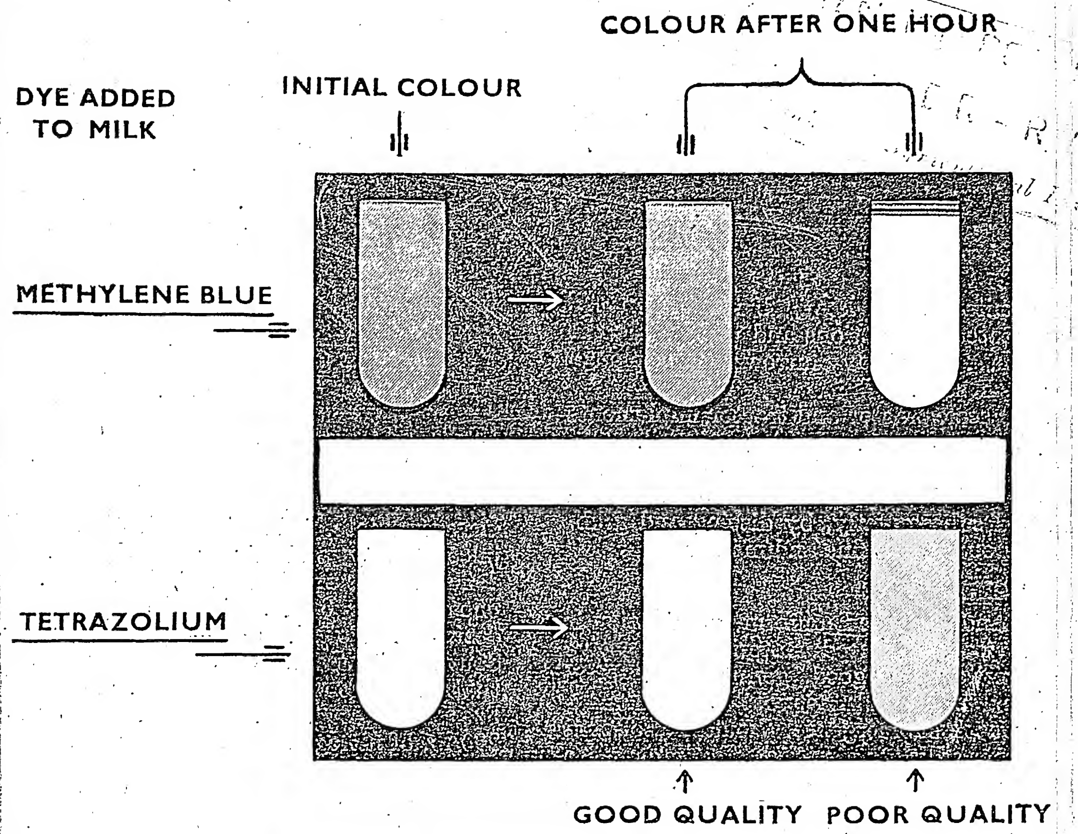
By **C. P. ANANTAKRISHNAN**

THE bacteriological quality of milk is of considerable importance in dairy industry because it gives an index of the keeping quality of milk and its suitability for processing. A reliable idea of the quality of milk can be obtained by the addition of certain dyes (which colour the milk blue or purple) and then observe the time taken or rate at which decolourisation of the dye takes place (which is roughly proportional to the numbers of active organisms present in milk). There are two dye reduction tests in vogue wherein either methylene blue or resazurin is used. Recently, a new test has been developed at this Institute using a colourless compound known as "tetrazolium bromide". This compound imparts no colour to the milk initially. If the milk contains large numbers of bacteria, it becomes deep red in colour and the time it takes to produce this colour or the intensity of colour measured after a known interval of time (say 4 hours or so) enables one to estimate the quality of milk. This dye offers two distinct advantages over others in use upto now. Firstly, the change from the colourless to deep red colour is easy to observe and quite impressive for demonstration to the milk producers. Secondly, the dye can be used even in heat processed or boiled milk unlike methylene blue and resazurin. The results of tetrazolium test indicate that it may become an important test in the quality control of milk supplies in our country.

Chhana is one of the two chief bases (the other is *khoa*) for making Indian milksweets. It is obtained by acid-coagulation of milk at its boiling point and subsequent drainage of whey. The amount of milk annually converted into *chhana* in the Indian Union has been estimated at 15–16 lakh maunds. The production of *chhana* is confined to the eastern States of the Union, especially West Bengal, which produces the maximum quantity of this product. In view of its important economic position in the dairy industry of the country, investigation has been carried out to define factors in *chhana* manufacture which will ensure marketing of a desirable product. Different types of *chhana*-sweets need in *chhana* particular type of softness. The degree of softness is proportional to the amount of moisture the product contains and is essentially decided by the conditions of coagulation and the quality of milk used. The conditions of coagulation are determined by acidity at coagulation strength of the coagulant solution, type of coagulant temperature and time of coagulation, and lastly, the speed of stirring the milk at the time of adding the coagulant. A higher acidity at coagulation causes a decrease in the moisture content of *chhana* and an increase in its hardness. With lower acidity, the effect is reversed. Commercial citric and lactic acids produce odourless products, while lime-juice and aged *chhana* whey impart in the coagulated product their characteristic flavours. A lower temperature of coagulation increases the moisture content while a higher speed of stirring decreases the moisture content of *chhana*.

CHHANA-MAKING EQUIPMENTS
1. Hotplate 2. 'Degchi' 3. Stirrer 4. Coagulant 5. 'Chhana' for draining 6. 'Chhana' whey 7. Finished 'Chhana'



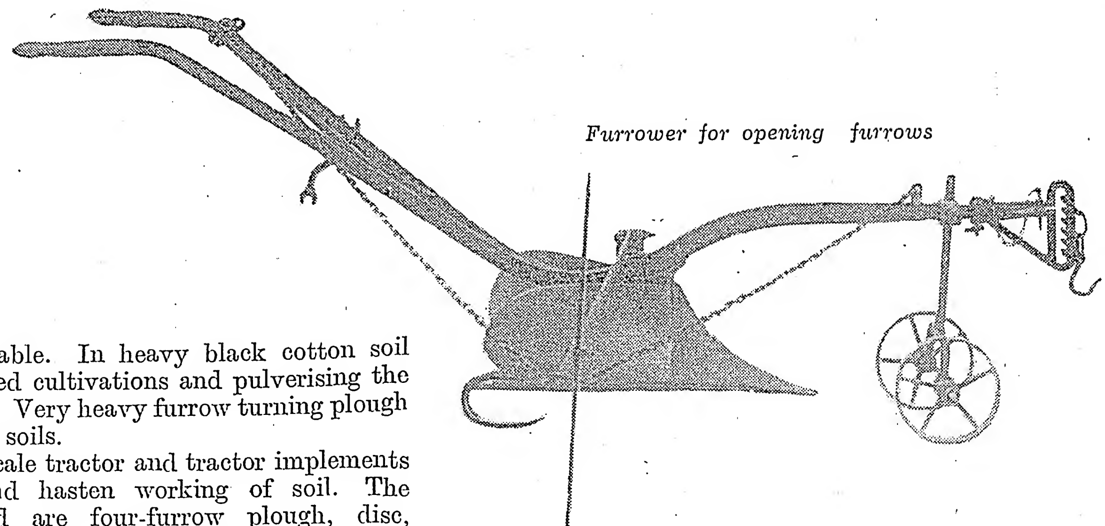


COLOUR CHANGES IN MILK (CONTAINING THE DYE) DUE TO BACTERIAL ACTIVITY.

For *chhana* making, cow milk is preferable, because it yields a product of desirable soft body and smooth texture. The milk for *chhana* making should be fresh and must have 4 per cent fat. Developed acidity imparts coarse texture and sour smell to *chhana*. The processing of milk has no untoward effect on the quality of the final product. Adulteration of milk with water lowers the yield of *chhana* without affecting its texture or flavour. The presence of starch in milk results in coagulation in a gelatinous mass, which is not suitable for sweet making. The yield of *chhana* from the milk of cow and buffalo is 13.8 and 20.9 per cent respectively. The keeping quality of *chhana* depends upon the temperature of storage. The average values for the storage life of *chhana* at 100°, 75°, and 45° F. are 2, 3 and 12 days respectively.

Colostrum is the secretion obtained from mammals during the first few days after parturition. After meeting the requirements of colostrum for the calf, particularly in heavy yielders, a good amount of colostrum is usually left over. Preservation of this valuable product as such in the powder form is ideal, but the process of drying is cumbersome and not within the reach of an ordinary farmer. However, the fat from the surplus colostrum could be easily recovered by mechanical means and stored for a considerable length of time. The composition of this colostral fat differs a great deal from that of normal milk fat. It contains smaller amounts of lower volatile fatty acids, but on the contrary, it is very rich in vitamin A and carotene. Experiments were carried out to study the growth promoting value of this colostral fat, perticularly in the raising of young calves. A group of young calves were fed colostral fat at 3 per cent level in skim milk from the age of 4 days at the rate of 6 lb. a day for 3 months. Another group of the same age was maintained on normal milk ration as control. The growth was measured in terms of increase in weight, height and heart girth at different stages. The total vitamin A intake of the experimental calves was about 18,000 i.u. per day as compared to about 3,000 i.u. per day in the case of control calves. This vast difference in the vitamin A intake made no significant difference in the growth rate of the two groups of calves. The results indicate that colostral fat at 3 per cent level in skim milk is a good substitute for whole milk in the raising of new born calves and this suggests the possibility of utilization of surplus colostral fat available in large farms, thereby saving an equal amount of milk fat for human consumption.

 (Continued from page 10)



Furrower for opening furrows

plough is quite suitable. In heavy black cotton soil a *bhakkar* for repeated cultivations and pulverising the soil is more suitable. Very heavy furrow turning plough is required for such soils.

On plantation scale tractor and tractor implements reduce the cost and hasten working of soil. The implements required are four-furrow plough, disc, harrow and a cultivator. The first cultivation is given with a plough and subsequently, by discing and grubbing, the field is brought to a fine and mellow tilth.

SELECTION OF SEED CANE

For a good stand, early and uniform germination is essential. High vitality of seed material and active buds are prerequisites for good germination. Seed material with sound buds and intact root eyes undamaged by frost or water submergence, should be selected from the best manured plots. In fact, the importance of careful selection of seed material cannot be overemphasized. The seed material should be selected when the crop is still standing in the field. Lodged and diseased canes should be rejected. Top setts should be preferred to bottom setts. These can be easily spared as juice from such setts brings about quick inversion and forms low grade *gur*. In case the varieties are susceptible to frost and frosts are frequent, the seed should be clamped. Strong healthy canes should be cut into setts varying from 1½ to 2½ ft. in length. These setts should be as straight as possible so that they lie straight on the furrow bottom. Diseased and discarded setts should be passed through the mill and the bagasse utilized for burning in the *gur* furnace.

About 50-60 md. of seed cane, cut into setts, are required for an acre when cane is to the planted at 2½ to 3 ft. interspace. The quality also depends on the thickness of cane.

MANURING

For a cane crop basal manuring is very essential. If the field has not been green-manured then a basal dressing of 10 tons of F. Y. M., composted garbage or farm compost should be applied. The dose of sludge may be halved as it contains higher percentage of nitrogen as compared to other basal manures. Basal manure must be thoroughly incorporated in the soil by repeated cultivations.

At the planting time, and subsequently, about 120 lb. of nitrogen, which in terms of ammonium sulphate amounts to 7½ md., should be applied as top dressing. In light soils, the dose should be split up. One half of it should be applied at the planting time in the furrow or trench, and the remaining half at earthing up of the crop. In heavy soils, where chances of leaching are remote, full scale application results in superior juice quality and higher cane yield. In phosphate deficient soils application of 1½ to 3 md. of triple superphosphate or 6 md. of single superphosphate is very desirable. Potash is deficient in very few soils in the South and Assam. One essential precaution is to see that there is enough moisture in the soil when the fertilizer is dressed. In southern India manuring upto 200 lb. of nitrogen per acre has given economic returns. Under those conditions split-up dose applications have proved useful. Hence the fertilizer should be applied in three doses, viz. at the time of planting, 6 weeks after it and at earthing up of the crop.

PLANTING

The choice of a planting method is of great importance to the farmer. The system has to be such that it fits in his cropping methods and is manageable with the means at his disposal. There are four recognized methods of planting cane viz. the furrow method, the trench system, flat planting, and the interplanting of cane in standing crops.

Of these four methods, the trench system is commonly adopted in areas where the crop stands on the field for a period exceeding 18 months. The furrow method is common with cane growers in northern India in the Gangetic alluvium. Flat planting is very commonly practised in the Indus basin. In intensive rotations cane is interplanted in *shaftal* (*Trifolium rasupinatum*), berseem (*Trifolium alexandrium*), potatoes and other vegetable crops. The standard furrow method (evolved at Pusa) consists in opening furrows 5 to 6 ins. deep with a furrower. Cake or fertilizer to be applied is spread at the bottom of the furrow before setts are placed. The fertilizer should be mixed with powdered compost or earth before it is spread in the furrow. In the furrows, setts are placed end to end and covered with earth by means of a gatherer. Thereafter, the field is beamed to press the earth on the setts. In flat planting, the furrows are hardly 2½-3 ins. deep as the *desi* plough can only pierce the soil to that depth. So, the setts are covered with a 1½-2 ins. layer of earth. The trench system is costly and requires considerable labour to lay out

the trenches $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in width and $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. to 4 ft. apart from middle of one trench to the other. The topsoil is placed on one side and earth from the bottom 9 ins. is placed on the other. The setts are placed in the furrows after fertilizer has been applied and they are covered with a layer of about 2 ins. of soil. Usually, trenches are irrigated immediately after planting. The trench system is an insurance against lodging. Flat planting provides least support and requires a few more irrigations for germination. The furrow system of planting is cheap and more adapted to loamy alluvial soils with dry system of planting.

IRRIGATION

The experimental work has indicated that during the germination period water should be supplied more freely than during the period after germination and before earthing up of the crop. In the cane formation stage, the crop requires large quantities of water at weekly intervals; unless, the monsoon comes to rescue by supplying water at short intervals to the extent of about 45 acre inches. The water supply restricted in the maturation stage sweetens the cane. Wasteful irrigations increase the yield but do not proportionately increase the sucrose content and, therefore, in *gur* tracts heavy irrigations cause a definite reduction in *gur* yield and the setting of *gur* is adversely affected. Shallow, frequent irrigations, saturating the soil upto 6 ins. depth, are more profitable than deep irrigations. The latter causes leaching of nitrates with water beyond the root zone. The sugarcane crop requires about 60 acre inches of water in northern India and about 120 acre inches in southern India, that is 20 and 40 irrigations, respectively. The number of irrigations will decrease to the extent the rainfall supplements irrigation.

INTERCULTIVATION

Care given to the plant in the early stages of its growth pays handsomely in the shape of vigorous and ordered growth of the crop. Throughout India hot weather period is the most critical period for cane growth. Once the crop has tided over this period successfully it maintains vigorous growth thereafter. This period lasts for over three months and coincides with the tillering phase of the crop. The weeds compete with crop for water and nutrients. There is high rate of evaporation from the interspace between rows if soil crust is not broken. Hoeing or intercultivation conserves moisture and plant food by uprooting weeds and forming mulch on the soil surface. It also provides aeration for roots and thus stimulates growth of roots in deeper layers. After every irrigation the crop should receive hoeing. The intercultivation can be cheaply done by means of a bullock-drawn hoe or a cultivator. Some farmers neglect intercultivation during hot weather. The yields are always considerably increased with a slight extra care in the management of the soil in the dry period.

EARTHING UP

At present, earthing up is done with manual labour involving very high cost to the farmer. The operatior can be more cheaply performed with a ridging plough or, alternatively, with a turning plough. The former carries out the operation very efficiently. It is given to lend support to the growing stalks which gradually increase in weight. The stalks give out new roots which further bind them to the soil. Furrow irrigation results in saving in irrigation water to the extent of 10-15 per cent. The crop is less bunchy and larger number of millable stalks are developed. It reduces incidence of the stem borer. The earthing up operation should be performed in the beginning of July, when first internode is visible and the crop stands up 4-5 ft. high. The operation should never be delayed beyond mid-July, otherwise, the stalks break in large numbers.

HARVESTING AND AFTER-CULTIVATION

In northern India, plant crop matures by about the middle of December, when it becomes fit for harvesting for *gur* manufacture or supply to the sugar factory. The ratoon crop matures a month earlier and is usually ready late in October or early November. The usual method is to harvest the cane flush to the ground. It is, however, recommended that a cane crop which is to be ratooned should be dug up with a spade. That adds appreciably to the yield. The topping of cane should be done right upto its part called green cane, particularly in the early part of the harvesting season when the top portion is unripe. Later on, in the month of March, absolutely immature stalks should only go with the tops. The cane for *gur* yard or factory should be cleaned of all mud and dry leaves otherwise, it causes considerable difficulty in *gur* manufacture and in the sugar factory.

At present, after-cultivation of the land is usually done with manual labour. The operation can be cheaply and efficiently performed with a furrow turning plough. Cross ploughing of the field uproots the stubble completely. This stubble should be picked up and used as fuel. After stubble removal, the land should be cultivated thrice or even four times with horse hoe or *desi* plough. When it is intended to keep the stubble for ratoon, two precautions are essential, viz. the mature crop must be harvested before early February, and secondly, it should be free from disease and pests particularly red rot and shoot borers. After harvesting, the dry leaves should be burnt, the ridges carefully ploughed down and land irrigated so that sprouting of buds starts immediately.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Pyrilla: It is a leaf sucking insect both in the nymphal and adult stages. When in epidemic form, it does extensive damage to the vigorous, healthy growing crops where it finds good shelter. Early attack arrests the growth of the plants and a late one brings about deterioration in juice quality. Bagging of nymphs and adults during May to July in the morning and evening provides considerable relief. Burning unwanted trash and stubble also destroys the pest.

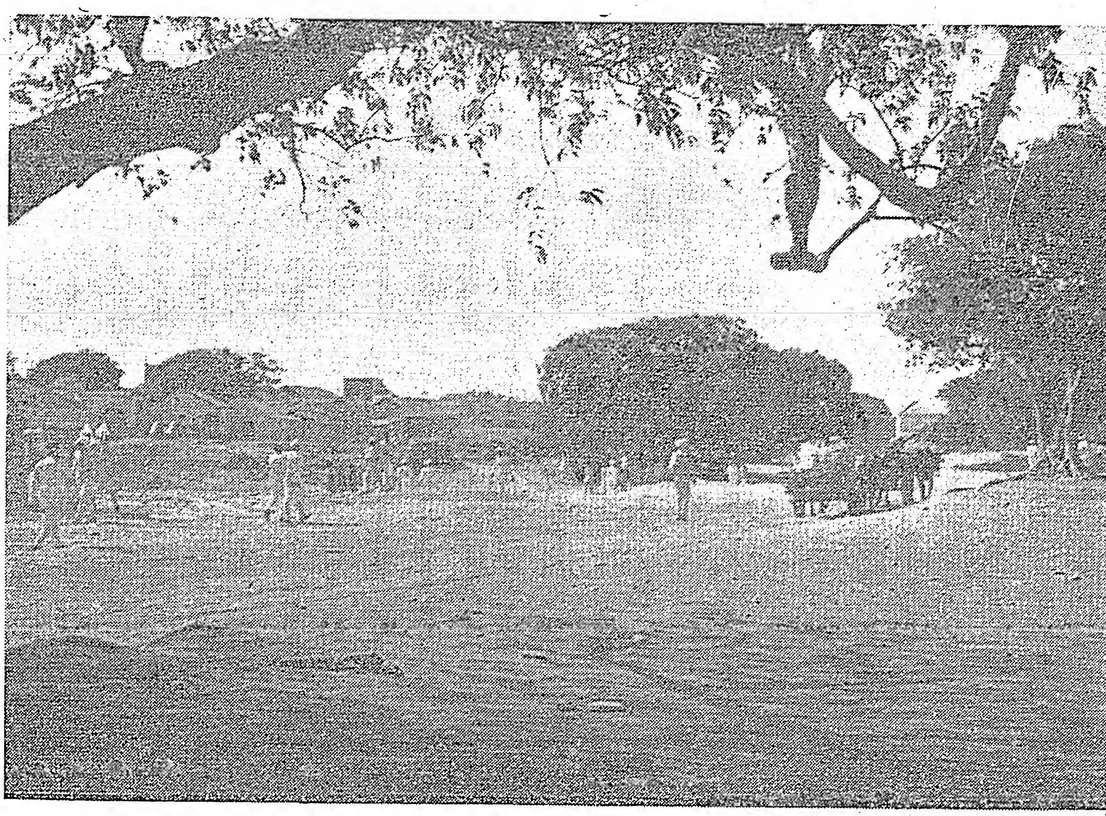
Borers: Stem and shoot borers are serious pests of the cane crop. They bore the cane and spoil it. When serious, they kill all the shoots and produce dead hearts. The growth of the crop is stunted and there is little cane formation. Cutting out shoots showing dead hearts from the base removes the caterpillars damaging the shoots. This process requires repetition with weekly intervals. The releasing of *Trichogramma* parasites is another method of controlling pests particularly on large scale.

(*Contd. on page 30*)

COMMUNITY PROJ

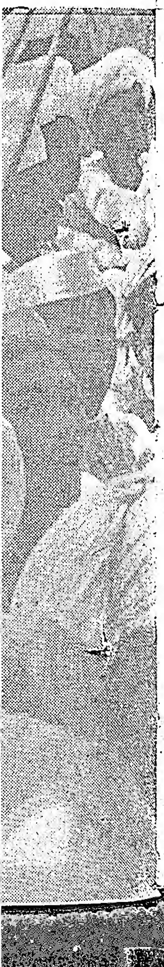
More than a thousand representatives from the various villages in the Project Area heralded the beginning of Community Project work

A typical village of the Project Area



The women of the Project Area evinced keen interest in the proceedings

ECTS IN SAURASHTRA



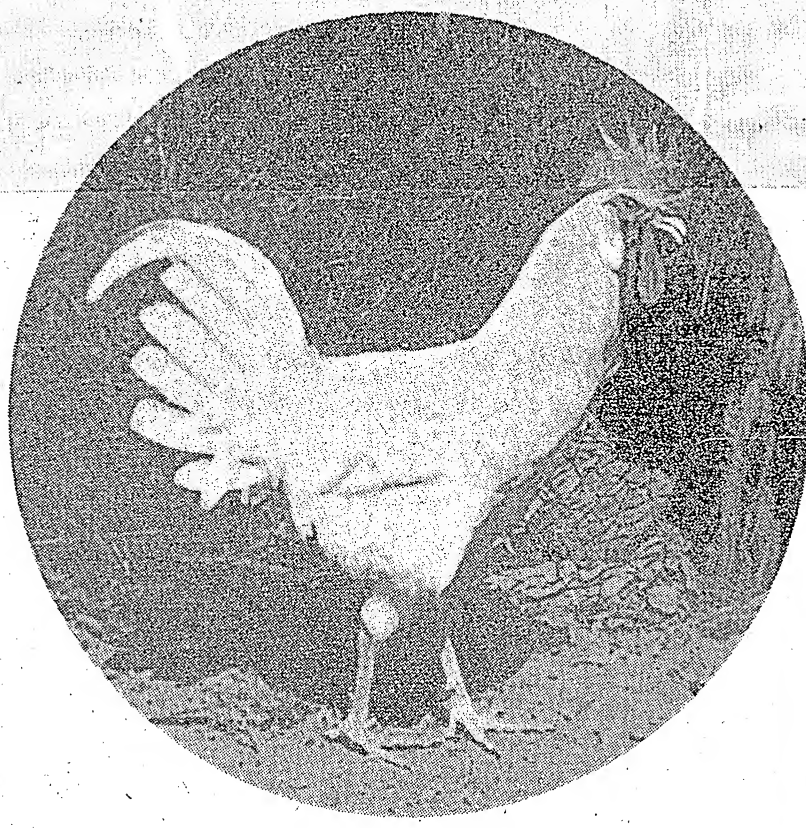
THE selection of Manavadar-Vanthali area in the Sorath district of Saurashtra as a centre for Community Project Development work is appropriate, since the area covers 106 villages with a population of 1,30,000. Furthermore, with an annual rainfall of 30 inches this area is expected to offer opportunities to agricultural workers and farmers for increasing agricultural production. Development work will be initiated in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, education, cottage and small scale industries. All this will naturally lead to an alround development of the farmer.

Recently, a Convention attended by State officials and constructive workers was held at Pajod—a typical village in this area. The part to be played by community project plans for increasing production was stressed and the villagers were exhorted to help themselves if they were to improve the economic condition of the villages and realize the goal of self-sufficiency.

If plans work out according to schedule, the next three years should bring about marked improvements. Each village is to be provided with two protected wells for drinking water, and drainage and irrigation facilities. There will be one Agricultural Extension Worker for every two villages. Roads are to be so constructed that no village would be more than 1/2 a mile away from a road. Villages of more than 500 inhabitants will have a primary school and after three years, 60 per cent of the total population are expected to be literate. Recreation centres are also to be opened. And if enthusiasm shown by those attending is any index to greater efforts, the Convention at Pajod should bring about prosperity for the people of Saurashtra. (H. K. S.)

—K. M. SHAH

A group of White Leghorns which are being distributed to villagers for improving desi *birds*



Leghorn Cock

POULTRY DEVELOPMENT IN MEERUT CIRCLE

By **H. K. LALL,**
Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Meerut.

NOT very long ago, when we used to go to the villager and ask him to keep poultry, because it provided him with a cottage industry which could increase his income, and also provide him with animal protein, the missing component in his diet, the very cool reply used to be " I can keep the poultry all right, but what about the disease which just comes and wipes the flock away. I had a go at it number of times but cannot do it any longer." We had no answer to it, and the propaganda mostly fell flat. Now to the same question we have a ready answer " Well, we have the Ranikhet vaccine for you, which will protect your birds, and there are other vaccines and remedies for other diseases like Fowl Pox, Fowl Cholera, Spirochætosis, which can also be provided now." He still has his doubts but he is convinced for the possibility of disease control when he is told that Ranikhet, which causes maximum mortality, can now be controlled effectively by the use of vaccine evolved at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute and now produced and supplied by our own Biological Products Section at Badshahbagh, Lucknow.

RANIKHET VACCINE

Ranikhet vaccine has thus come to the rescue of the development workers. It has made work easier in carrying out the special development scheme in Uttar Pradesh, under which birds costing Rs. 15 to the Government, are given at Rs. 2 to poultry breeders in develop-

ment block areas, and at Rs. 7/8 in other areas. Such breeders are called Poultry Keepers and Poultry Farmers respectively. The speed of progress may be judged from the fact that the number of poultry keepers increased, in Meerut Circle alone, from 112 in 1948 to 333 in 1949 and 684 in 1950, and there was a similar increase in the number of poultry farmers. As against 697 hatching eggs distributed in 1948, 1,500 were distributed in 1949, and about 5,000 in 1950 which was more than 3 times that of the previous year's distributions. Similarly as against 678 birds distributed in 1948, there were 1,300 birds distributed in 1950.

IMPROVED DESI STRAIN

The cause of mortality in field, apart from the disease, are wild animals in the villages. Protection has been provided in some cases by distributing wire netting at extremely cheap rates, but on account of the fact that the birds of improved breeds such as White Leghorn, Rhode Island Reds, Black Minorca and Australorps are generally not so agile and active as the *desi* birds; they become an easy prey to the village cat, dog, hyena, etc. and, therefore, require extra care in their new environments after leaving the farm. It was, therefore, a matter of extreme importance that a breed which could resist these vicissitudes and also have fairly good production, should be evolved. Perhaps partially with this object in view, Poultry Section of Indian Veterinary Research Institute has evolved an improved *desi* strain of poultry, now having production equivalent to that of White Leghorn. Individual birds of that breed have laid as many as 200 eggs while the average birds have laid over 100 eggs of better weight in the first year under village conditions in U.P. in the plains as well as in the hills. This breed need not replace the foreign breed all over, but it is likely to prove a success, when distributed in the villages at a large scale after field trials at other centres. If this is made possible, it will remove the dilemma of the village poultry breeders who want to keep improved birds, and yet have not the means to protect them.

While research comes to the rescue of development workers and breeders by finding out new breeds and new vaccines the development work is also being pushed forward by propaganda through pamphlets and through poultry shows. During the last few years, poultry shows have become extremely popular. During the year 1949 as many as 15 Poultry shows were held in Meerut Circle of U.P., where nearly Rs. 2,000 were distributed in prizes, while in 1950, 21 poultry shows were held and nearly Rs. 2,500 were given away as prizes. This is due to the increasing interest of the poultry keepers. Such shows are also extremely popular in the colonization areas where refugees are ready to take up this industry even though this may promise only a small profit. One such show was held at Hastinapur Centre of Ganga Khadar colonization area where the inhabitants from all over flocked to the show, carrying their birds in baskets, in their armpits, and on their heads.

In this connection Mission Poultry Farms are performing extremely useful function. They are grouped round the main Mission Poultry Farm, Etah, whose Manager Sri A. E. Slater has become a well known figure in poultry circles. The Mission shows are conspicuous for quality of the birds presented there. The work at these farms consists of distributing hatching eggs to breeders in the surrounding villages at cheap rates, and birds from them are purchased at the time of annual shows, which again are re-distributed to the breeders at concessional rates in these very districts, and thus efforts are made to supply the improved poultry to as many people as possible.

ATTRACTED TO POULTRY INDUSTRY

An increasing number of well-to-do people in Meerut Circle are now attracted to the poultry industry on large scale. This is justified, too, because poultry can be one of the very rich industries in the country. We have 115.3 million birds, and the eggs produced are valued at Rs. 72.1 million. Not only that, but the egg provides a protein diet of which there is great deficiency in this country, and is badly required to build up the stamina and resistance against disease. A Chinese, for example, who takes less of milk and cereals, in the opinion of experts who are familiar with that country, has better stamina than an Indian and they attribute it to his consumption of the animal proteins, one of the type of animal protein on which he

feeds, irrespective of the fact whether he is Buddhist or a non-Buddhist. Many people in this country do not take eggs under the impression that eggs have life in them, not knowing that lifeless eggs can be produced by removing the cock from the flock and the consumption of such eggs need not hurt anybody's sentiments. This, however, is a very difficult task to explain to the layman. The propaganda in this respect of the problem is sure to increase egg consumption, and thereby give impetus to egg production and poultry development.

FEEDING POULTRY

Poultry nutrition is a very important problem in the village where the villager is faced with the difficulty of feeding himself, his children, his livestock and his birds. In view of the shortage of cereals in the country, it has become more difficult for him to spare any cereals, and this is one of the reasons that improved birds deteriorate when they go to the villages. The ordinary *desi* bird, so to say, lives on nothing which, however, is not possible for a bird of an improved variety. This is where research has again come to the rescue of development workers. For instance, it has been investigated that for poultry Bulrush millet (Bajra) is as good as wheat in feeding value and Arhar Chuni (outer husk of red gram) can satisfactorily replace wheat bran and is about one and a half times cheaper. Attempts are being made to substitute cowdung to replace animal proteins, because of its growth promoting factor which helps in the utilization of vegetable proteins. The use of such proteins, as meat entrails and blood from slaughter houses which are normally wasted, can be made use of as poultry feeds with advantage. There is scope for further work of practical nature in this connection. The problem of adequate nutrition is facing the development worker now, but will be more acute in future when the tempo of development work increases, because it is extremely improbable that for the next few years the country will have enough cereals to spare for the poultry.

One of the major bug bears of the poultry consumer and poultry merchant, is to maintain the quality of eggs during summer. The amount of annoyance that one experiences, when one has to face a rotten egg on the table or in the kitchen, is indescribable. Annoyance to the consumer and loss to the producer can be minimized if the methods of preservation of eggs, such as lime pickling, oil preservation, water glass preservation are used more commonly. These processes do not need any elaborate arrangement. Lime pickling simply means dipping the egg in lime solution to block the pores in the shell, so as to stop the air getting into it and thereby saving egg proteins from deterioration. Same principle is evolved when eggs are preserved by dipping them in coconut oil or dipping them in sodium silicate.

To develop poultry activities in the village, it is essential that training should be imparted to men who are carrying out the work. Short courses of 6 weeks, free of any tuition fee, are in vogue at most of the government poultry farms in Uttar Pradesh. Such training is usually given by experienced officers, who have received their training in poultry work after going through specialized poultry courses, which are of different types, to suit all kinds of demands.

FLY BREEDING IN MANUR

ITS

By **M. A. IDNANI,** Indian Agricultural Research

ONE of the disturbing aspects of the preparation of farm yard manure and composts is the profuse breeding of flies in manure heaps and pits, for which this medium offers ideal conditions for development. Town refuse and night-soil have in recent years been pressed into service to increase the supplies of manure in India. These urban waste materials are apt to be particularly heavily charged with fly eggs and larvae, resulting in exceedingly large fly breeding in the vicinity of towns, with the added danger of disease organisms being carried and spread by the emerging flies.

No consideration can override the consideration of safety of public health and the question of control of fly breeding becomes of primary importance in the utilization of human and animal excreta and other waste materials for the production of manure. During the organization of work under the All India Town Refuse Compost Scheme of the I. C. A. R. started in 1943, this aspect of the problem evoked serious objection from the health authorities and it became necessary to find ways and means to stop this nuisance effectively in compost pits. It was found that in spite of refuse and night-soil being buried in pits in alternate layers with a 6 inch cover of soil on the top, the emergence of flies was uncontrolled. Observations showed that fly maggots creep up from deeper layers to the surface few inches, where they are transformed into pupae and later emerge out as flies from about the 6th day of filling up of pits. The emergence increases for a few days and is then completed in another 8 days or so. Based on these observations, some simple practical treatments were tried and found to be highly successful in clearing the compost depots of fly nuisance. An account of these is given below, with the hope that it would prove useful to organizers of compost work in urban areas as well as to farmers in the preparation of manure from all types of wastes without the accompanying objection of fly breeding.

1. FIRE TREATMENT OF PITS FOR DESTRUCTION OF FLIES

Compost pits are filled in alternate layers of town refuse and night-soil, with a final layer of soil on the top. Cloth rags obtained from refuse carts coming to the compost depot, are collected and spread, along with some dry refuse, over the pit area, on the 5th day after filling up of pits. This is then set

HINTS TO THE FARMER

(*Contd. from page 23*)

Red rot: This disease limits the growth of varieties susceptible to it. Therefore, cultivation of resistant varieties is the only permanent solution. The precautionary measures consist in sowing of disease-free seed, burning of stubble and diseased canes and growing of cane in long duration rotations.

Smut: It is another common disease which propagates more by planting diseased setts rather than infection by spores. The black whip indicates the disease. Planting of disease-free canes is the chief precaution to check this disease.

Wilt: This disease in certain years occurs in epidemic form. The main causes are cultivation of susceptible varieties, unaerated soil conditions and growing of crop in wilt infested fields. Wilt disappears if these causes are removed.

Top rot: It is a less serious disease. Certain varieties are more susceptible to it than others. Replacement of varieties is the only sure means of checking this disease.

PREPARATION AND
NTROL

Institute, New Delhi

to smouldering fire, which destroys all pupae lodged in the surface layer of soil. The operation may be repeated on the 10th day to be doubly sure about the destruction of pupae which might have come up after the first fire treatment.

A variety of alternate materials like paddy husk, wheat straw, ground nut husk, dry leaves, saw-dust etc. could be stored in compost depots and used as covers for firing pits in the above manner. The neat layer of dry ash left after firing serves, in addition, to repel flies from fresh contamination.

Manure prepared in heaps could similarly be subjected to fire treatment by spreading a cover of any of the suggested materials and setting this to smouldering fire. While the surface dry refuse may be partly burnt, the material inside the heap is usually too moist to catch fire, which gets automatically extinguished after effectively destroying all the phases of fly life in the surface.

2. FIRE TREATMENT WITH A BLOW TORCH STOVE

Due to the development of heat in manure heaps fly maggots are observed to creep out and the upper layer is found to be teeming with the entire population of maggots concentrated in the surface few inches. This makes it possible to destroy them effectively with the flame of a blow torch stove. Periodical observations of the surface of manure heaps for maggots or pupae enables this treatment to be successfully employed for control of fly breeding. The blow torch stove is particularly useful for firing heaps or pits in the rainy season or where suitable covering materials for firing are not available.

The surface of these treatments enabled the organization of town refuse compost work to be carried ahead and the method was in routine operation at all the centres in Sind, to the satisfaction of the health authorities. Quantitative trials carried out by the Chief Bio-chemist in charge of the scheme showed that a destruction of 96% of flies could be obtained by the fire treatment.

This practical remedy for an important aspect of manure preparation should provide an impetus for fuller utilization of all farm and habitation wastes and animal and human excreta for production of manure in the country.

LEMONGRASS (*Contd. from page 18*)

Mr. Willing. "It might save us a lot of money for weeding." "Yes, and furnish manure for more organic matter and income from mutton," I added.

Mr. Willing was born in England and got his college education in Holland. There he met a young lady who later became his wife and whom he affectionately calls "Kelly."

Lemongrass grows wild in many tropical areas. Distillation of the grass was recorded in the Philippine Islands in the 17th Century.

In 1951 the U. S. A. imported 900,130 lb. of lemongrass oil at a cost of $2,810,428.00. India was the main exporter with 476,654 lb. Guatamala, second, with 252,100 lb. Other contributing countries include Haiti, Salvador, Mexico, Belgium Congo, Switzerland, and Brazil.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question :—Can phosphatic manures be added while the compost is being prepared actually, and is it that $P_2 O_5$ can thus be fixed in the compost ? If so, what is the dose of phosphatic manures to be added during compost making, both in sectional filling and mass compost ? (T. N. P.).

ADDITION OF PHOSPHATE TO COMPOST MANURE.

Answer :—Compost manure prepared from town refuse and night soil or sewage sludge contains a balanced proportion of nitrogen, phosphorus and lime, and it is generally unnecessary to add a supplement of phosphate along with the manure to the soil. But manure prepared from cattle and farm wastes is in general poor in phosphorus, due to the diversion of grains and pulses, which are rich in phosphorus, for human food and the general neglect to return human excreta back to the land in the form of compost manure. This has led to a steady lowering of the phosphate level of our cultivated soils, which has not drawn much attention so far, due to the greater poverty of our soils in nitrogen.

In our attempts to make good the nitrogen loss of the soil by application of manure, we should also keep in mind the need to replace phosphate losses, if our lands are not to suffer, at a later stage, from a new problem of phosphatic starvation. The above replacement of phosphorus can best be done by adding to the manure, during its preparation, a phosphate supplement in the form of powdered bones, superphosphate or finely powdered rock phosph' te.

The dose of phosphate to be added would, no doubt, depend on the phosphate status of the soil, the intensity of cultivation and the sensitivity of the crops to be grown on the farm to the added phosphate. Legume crops like the pulses, beans, etc., vegetables, fruits, potatoes and, to a lesser extent, cereals and sugarcane respond to additions of phosphate. At high levels of crop yields, the addition of phosphate along with nitrogen becomes quite necessary if the yields are to be maintained from year to year. Since superphosphate is easily 'reverted,' or converted into insoluble forms in the soil, whereas organic forms of phosphate are not so casily 'reverted', it would be advisable, as a normal practice, to pass the whole of the phosphate dose of the farm through the compost-heap before application to the land.

A dose of, say, 10 tons of farm and cattle waste compost would supply about 100 to 150 lb. of nitrogen, but only about 40 to 50 lb. of phosphate ($P_2 O_5$), unless legume fodders rich in phosphate are grown on the farm and fed to the cattle. As such, in order to balance the phosphate deficiency of the manure, it would be useful to add a supplement of 50 to 100 lb. $P_2 O_5$, which would work out to a rate of 5 to 10 lb. $P_2 O_5$ per ton of compost manure added to the land. Since about 100 cu. ft. of freshly packed compost material, either in trenches or in heaps overground yield after 4 to 6 months' decomposition about a ton of ripe manure, the above rate of phosphate addition would correspond to about ½ maund of superphosphate or powdered bones or finely powdered rock phosphate added per 100 cu. ft. of freshly packed compost manure. The above quantity may be added in portions by dusting the same over successive layers of compost during its preparation.

In cases where cattle sheds are provided with stone-lined flooring and drains for collecting urine, it is a useful practice to spread the superphosphate in a thin layer on the flooring and in the drains, especially in the areas where urine collects. This practice helps conserve the cattle urine by preventing its loss as ammonia into the air and thus adds both extra nitrogen and extra phosphate to the manure.

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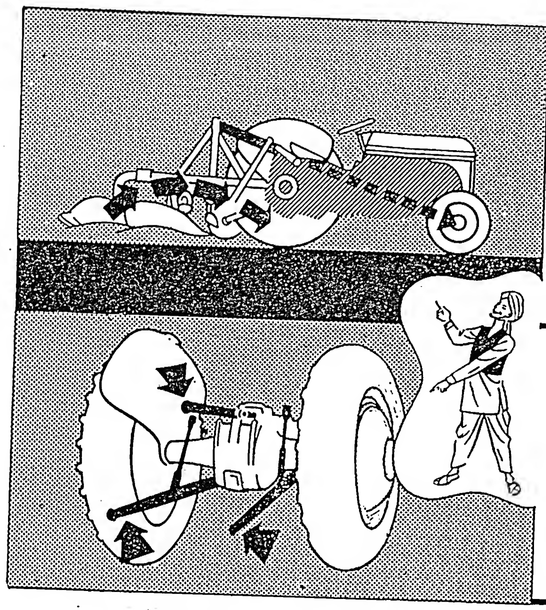

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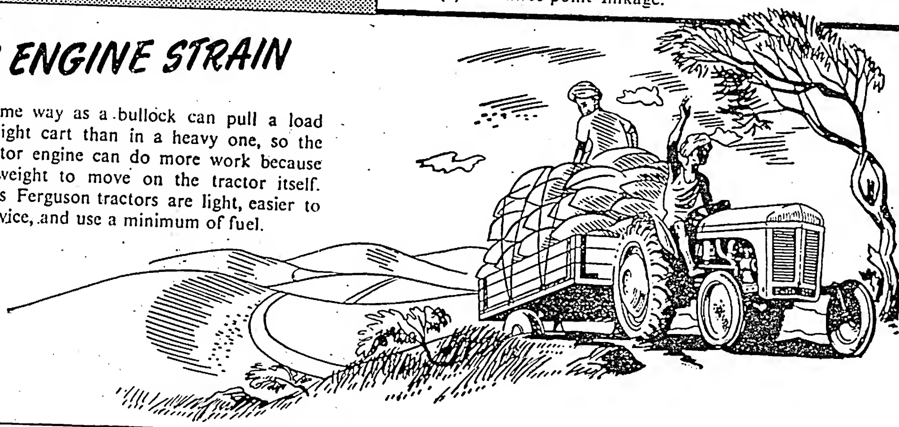

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